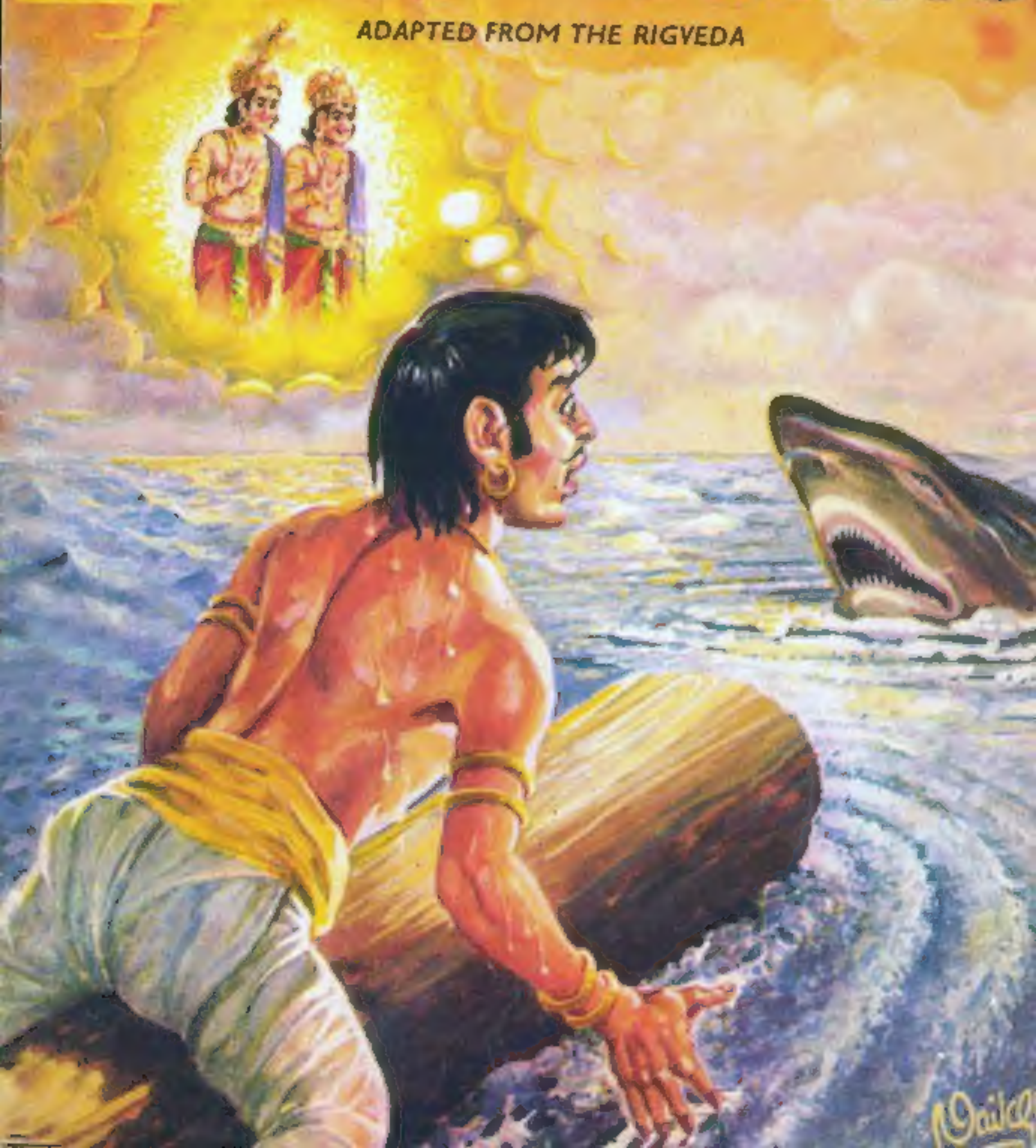




No. 319 Rs.

# ASHWINIS TO THE RESCUE

ADAPTED FROM THE RIGVEDA



Omika



**Amar Chitra Katha**  
No. 319, October 1, 1984

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## ASHWINS TO THE RESCUE

In the Rigveda there are several hymns addressed to the Ashwins who are the divine physicians. Judging from the number of these hymns, the twin deities seem to be next in importance only to Indra, Agni and Soma.

Most of the riks or hymns invoking the Ashwins are either an appeal to them for help or panegyrics for the help rendered to men in distress.

We also learn from the hymns that the twins are inseparable. They are extremely fond of honey and even carry it wherever they go, distributing it to bees and mortals.

The two stories in this Chitra Katha are developed solely from Vedic literature.

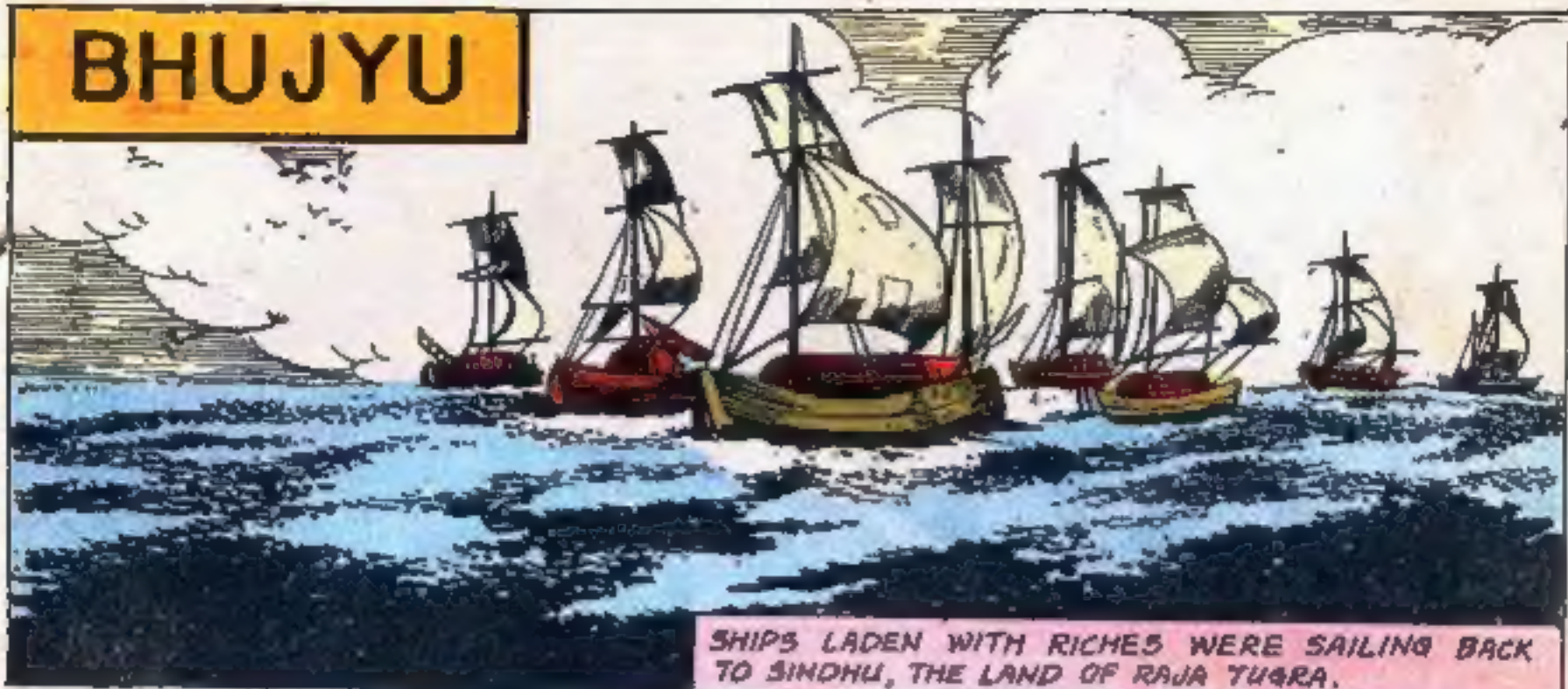
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# BHUJYU



SHIPS LADEN WITH RICHES WERE SAILING BACK TO SINDHU, THE LAND OF RAJA YUGRA.

THE MERCHANTS ON BOARD WERE QUITE PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES.

WE HAVE DONE BETTER ON THIS VOYAGE THAN WE DID EVER BEFORE.

OR CAN HOPE TO DO IN THE FUTURE.



OUR RAJA WILL BE PLEASED WITH THE MONEY THE ROYAL TREASURY WILL GET AS ITS SHARE. I AM IMPATIENT TO LAND.



PATIENCE, MY FRIEND. SINCE WE ARE TAKING THE ROUTE THROUGH THE STRAIT, WE SHOULD GET HOME FASTER THAN USUAL.





MEANWHILE AT A HIDEOUT ON AN ISLAND BY THE STRAIT--

HOW  
MANY DO YOU  
SEE?

SEVEN.

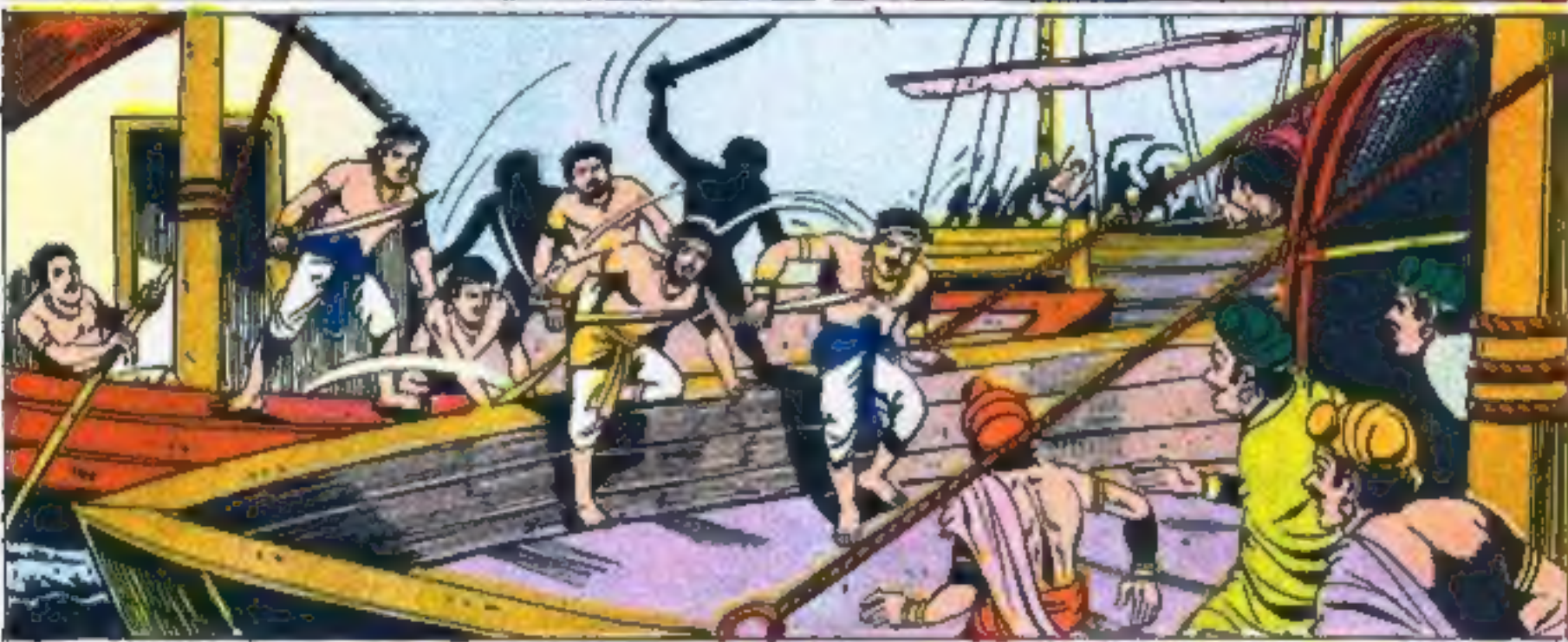
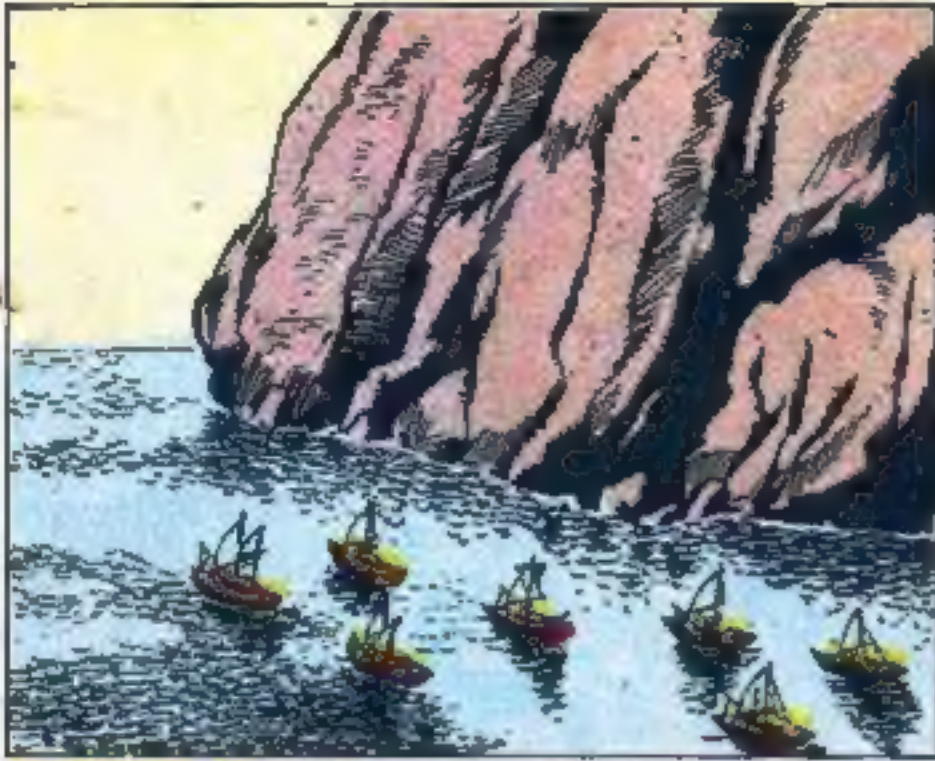
ARE OUR SHIPS  
IN POSITION?

YES. AND OUR  
MEN ARE  
READY.

SO AM I.  
COME ON.

LET THEM  
COME NEARER...  
ALL SEVEN OF  
THEM!







A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE COURT OF RAJA TUSRA —

... AND AS WE  
ENTERED THE  
STRAIT...



... WE WERE AMBUSHED  
BY SOME ISLANDERS  
AND ROBBED OF ALL  
OUR CARGO.



THESE ISLANDERS  
HAVE BECOME  
A MENACE.



UNLESS THEY  
ARE SUBDUED  
NO TRADE IS  
POSSIBLE WITH  
THE OUTSIDE  
WORLD,  
MAHARAJ.

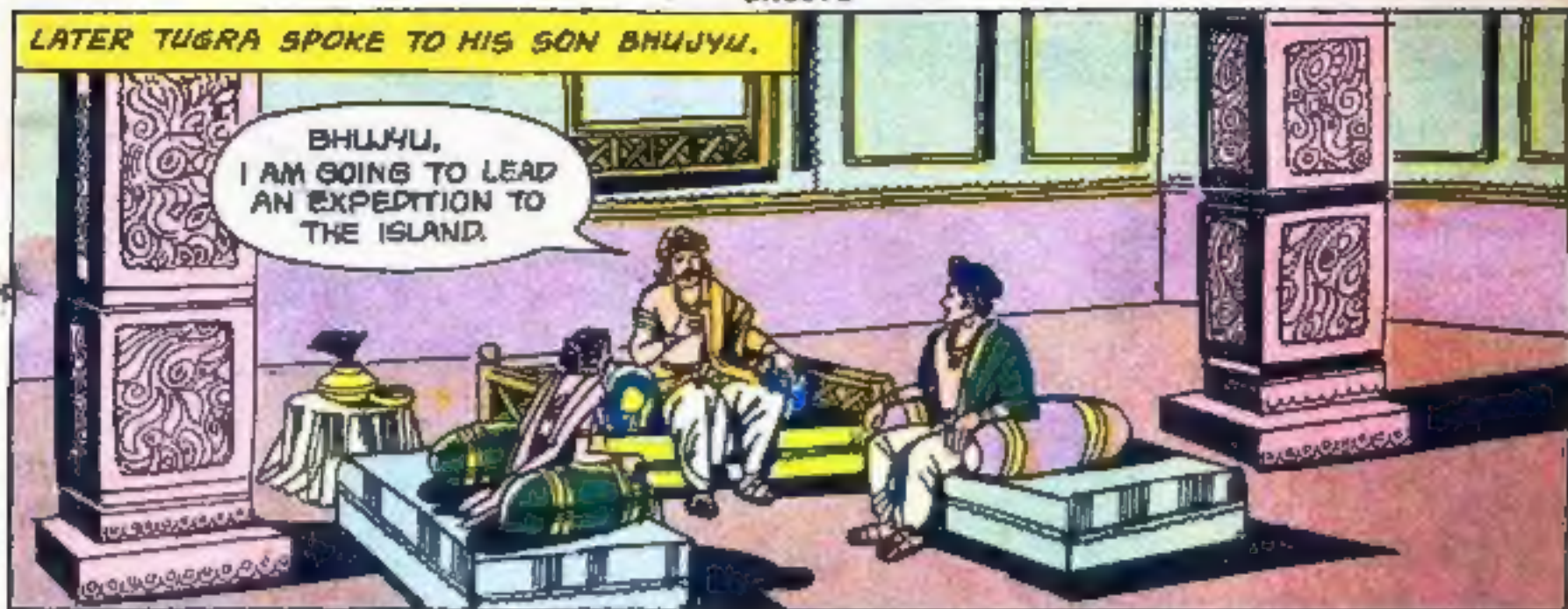


AS YOUR KING IT IS MY  
DUTY TO MAKE THE  
SEAS SAFE FOR YOU.  
AND I SHALL DO IT.





LATER TUGRA SPOKE TO HIS SON BHUJYU.



BHUJYU,  
I AM GOING TO LEAD  
AN EXPEDITION TO  
THE ISLAND.



YOU? NO FATHER.  
AS YOUR SON,  
THAT SHOULD  
BE MY  
PRIVILEGE.



BUT YOU ARE YOUNG,  
INEXPERIENCED AND  
UNACQUAINTED WITH  
THE HAZARDS OF THE  
SEA, MY SON.



ALL THE MORE REASON  
WHY I SHOULD GO,  
FATHER. IT WOULD BE  
A GOOD BEGINNING.  
HOW ELSE WILL  
I GAIN EXPERIENCE?



OH, NO, MY DEAR CHILD!  
THE ISLAND CHIEF IS  
WICKED... WILY...  
TREACHEROUS...







THE CALL WAS GIVEN...



...AND BHUIYU'S MEN ASSEMBLED BEFORE HIM.



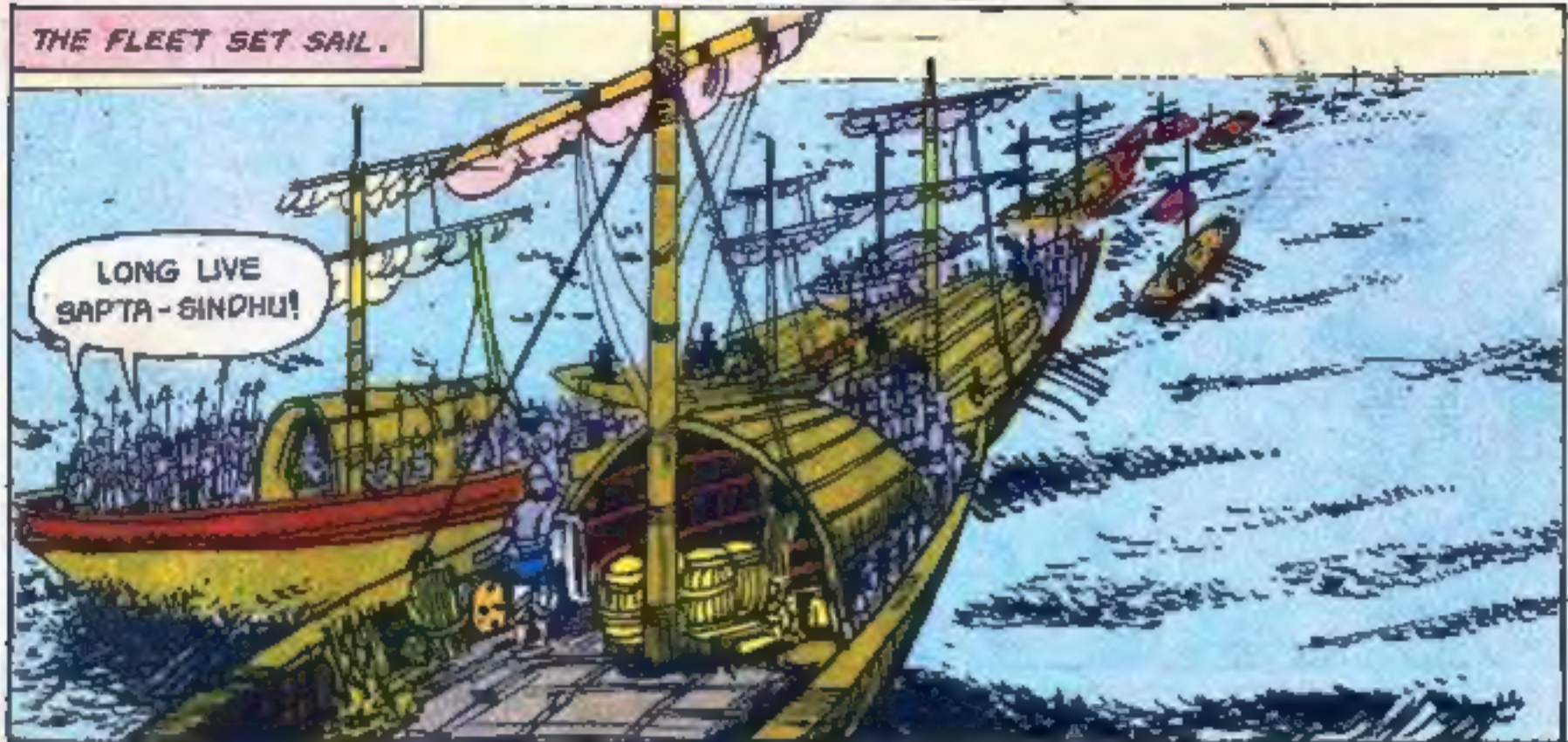
BHUIYU MADE OFFERINGS TO VARIOUS DEITIES.

THIS IS FOR PUSHAN, THE PATH-FINDER.





THE FLEET SET SAIL.



AFTER A VOYAGE OF THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS —



BHUIYU BLEW A MIGHTY CONCH! HIS SOLDIERS SENT WAR CRIES.



JUST THEN A VETERAN SAILOR OF A HUNDRED VOYAGES CAME TO BHUIYU.



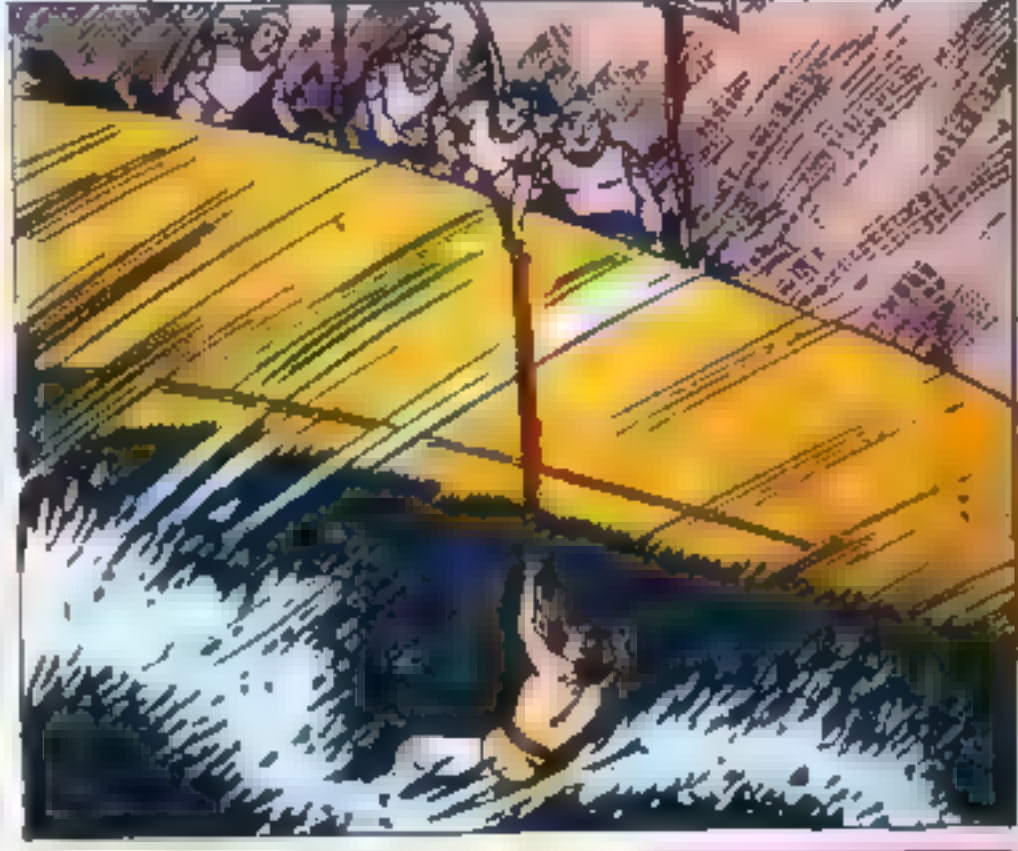
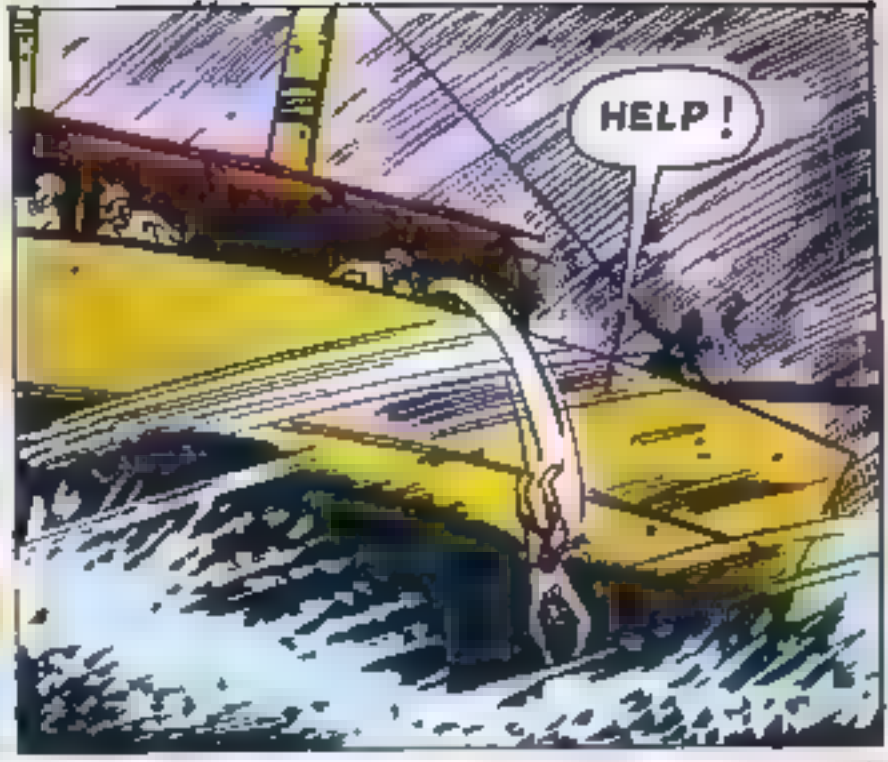
I FEAR WE ARE IN FOR A STORM.

A STORM!





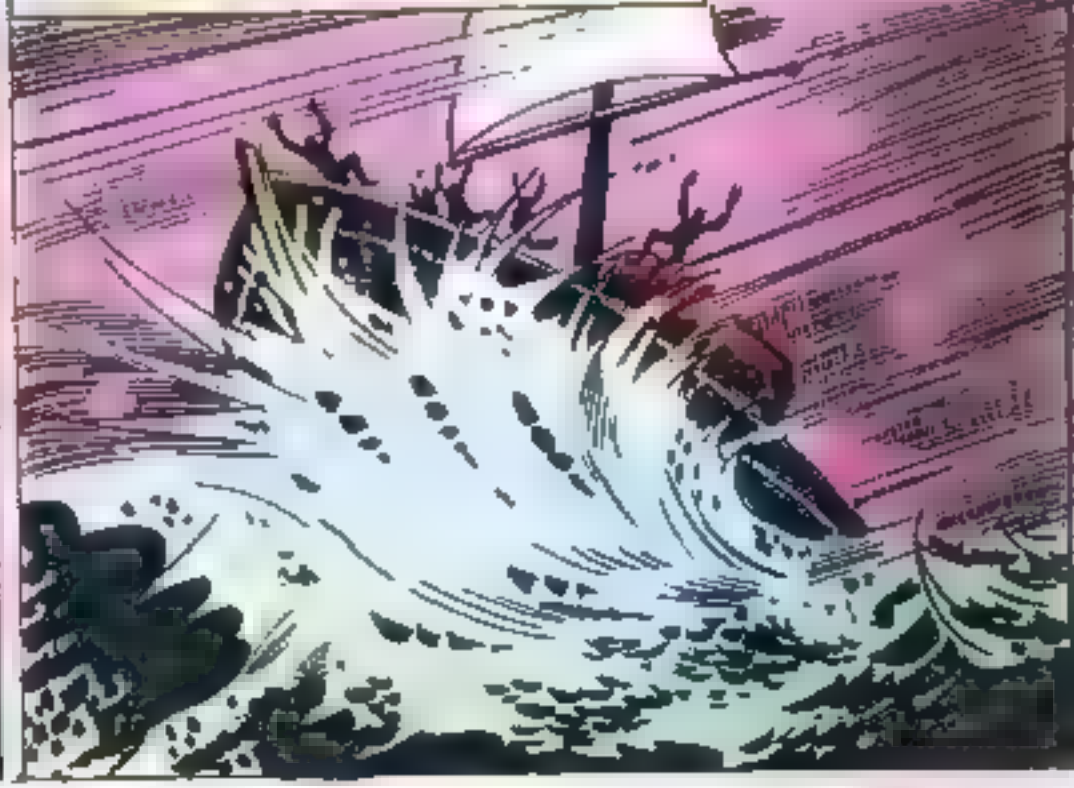
THE VERY NEXT MOMENT -



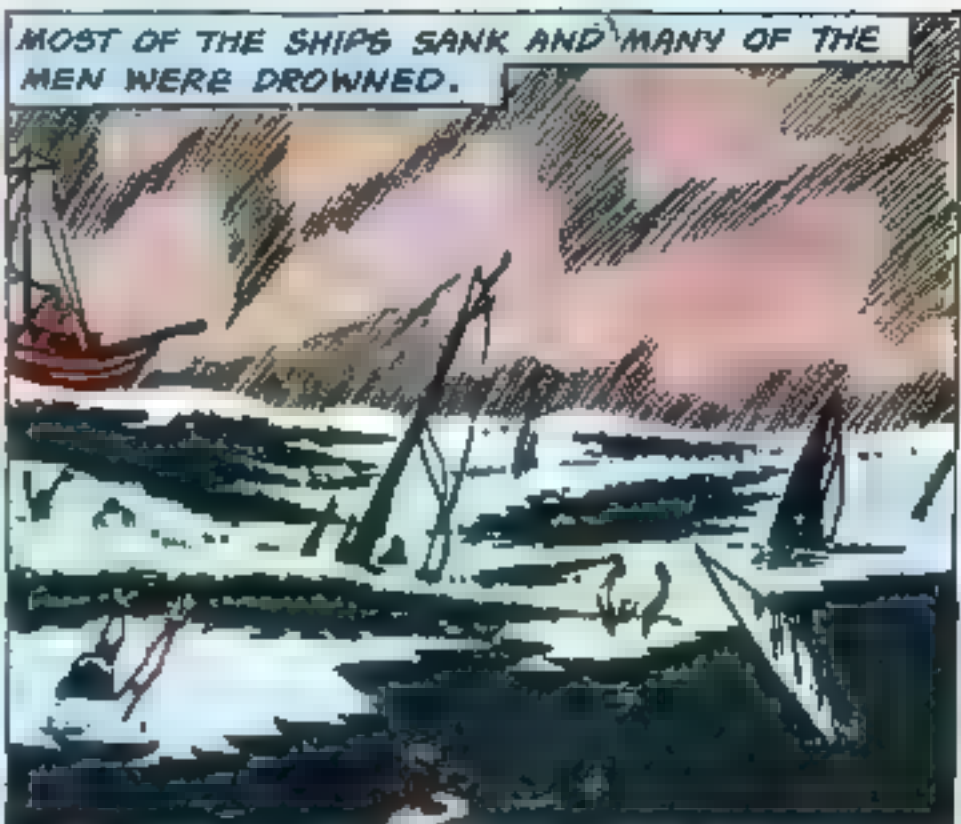
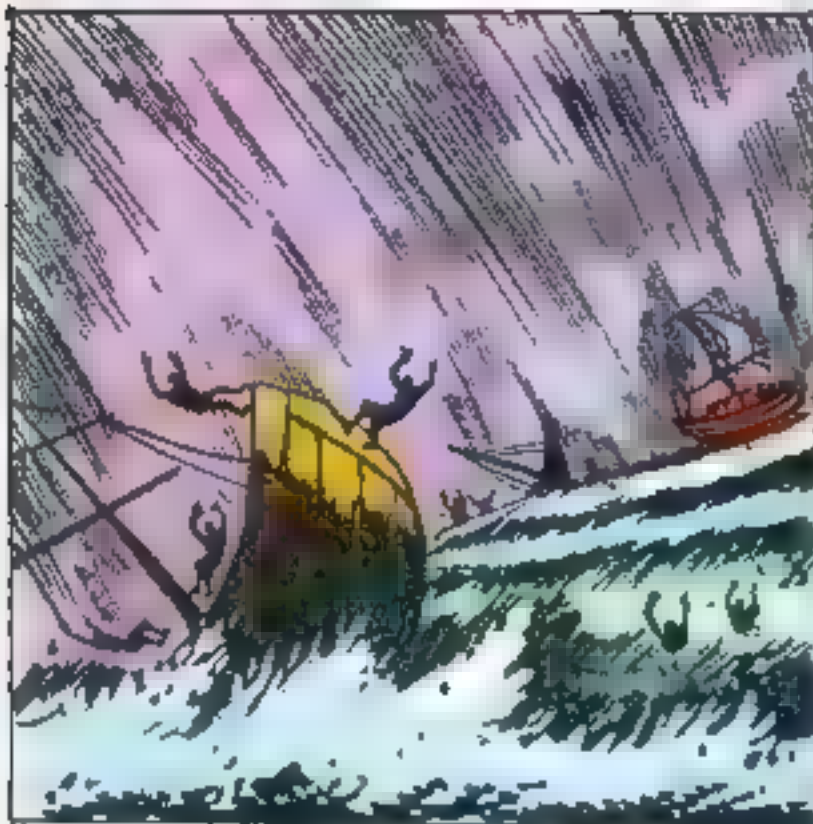
EVEN AS BHUJYU TRIED TO PULL THE MAN UP...



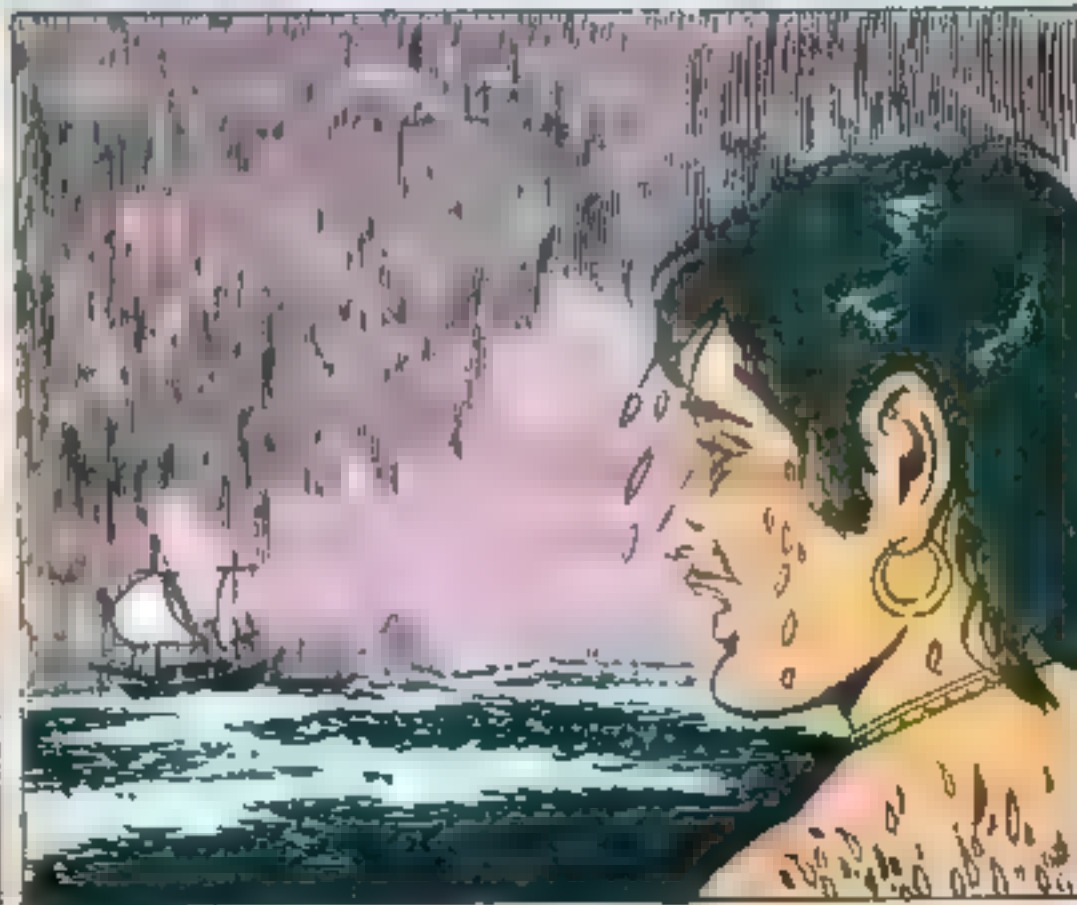
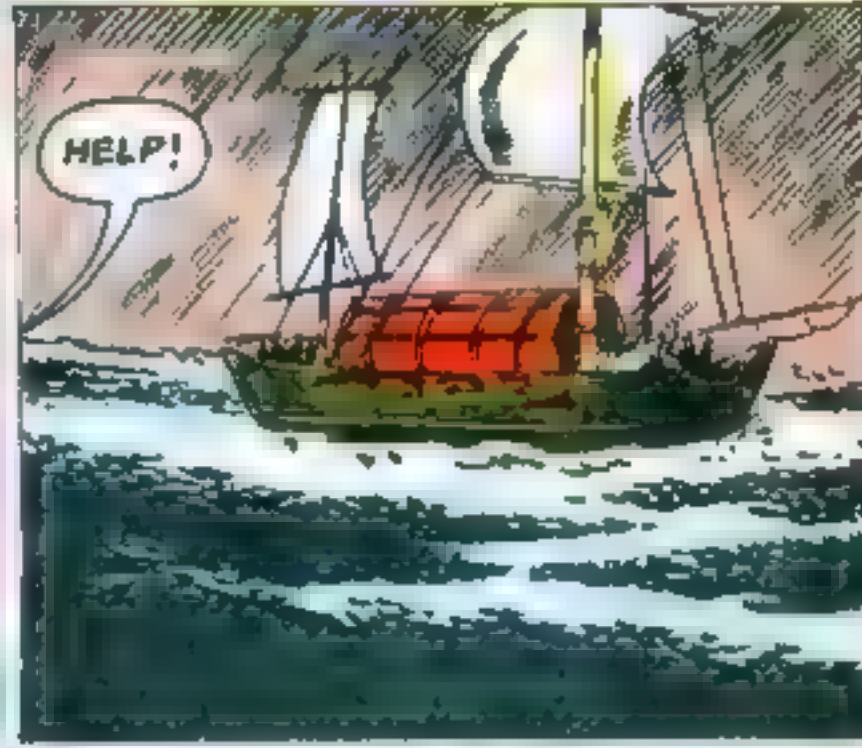
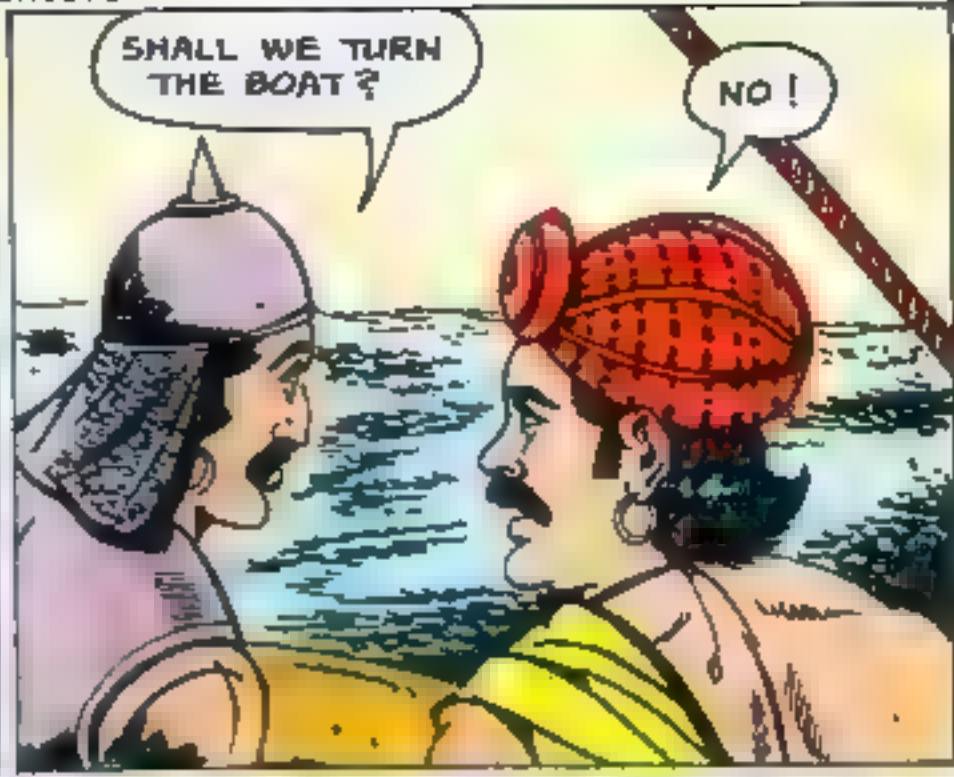
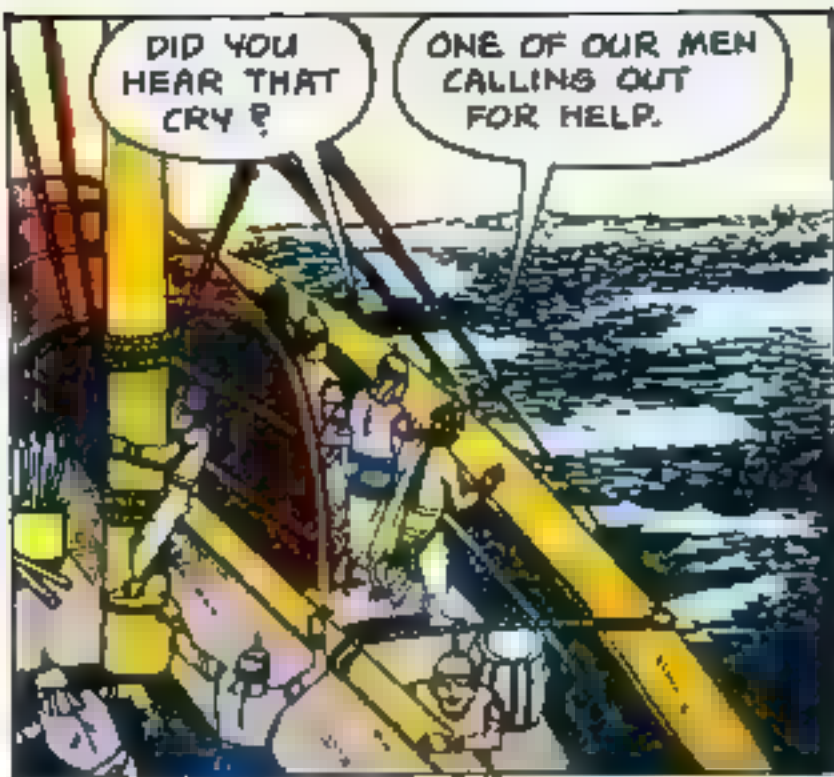
... A HUGE WAVE HIT THE SHIP.









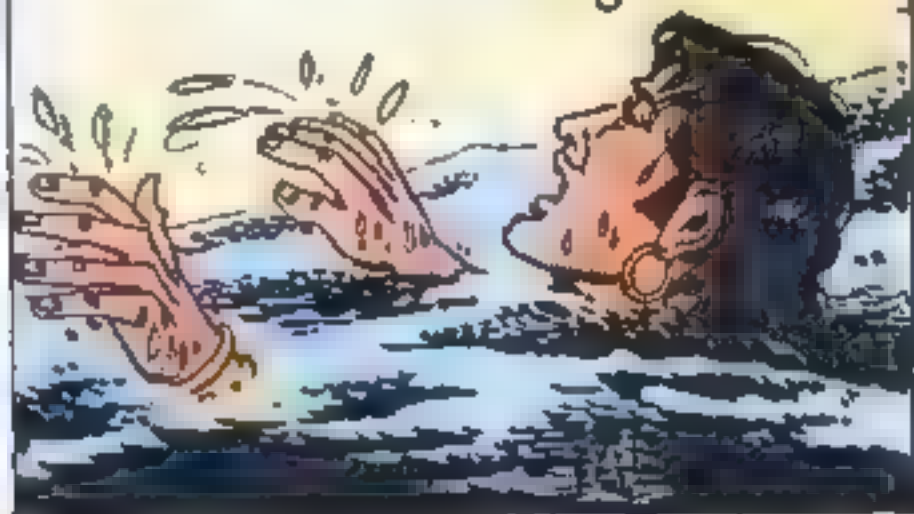




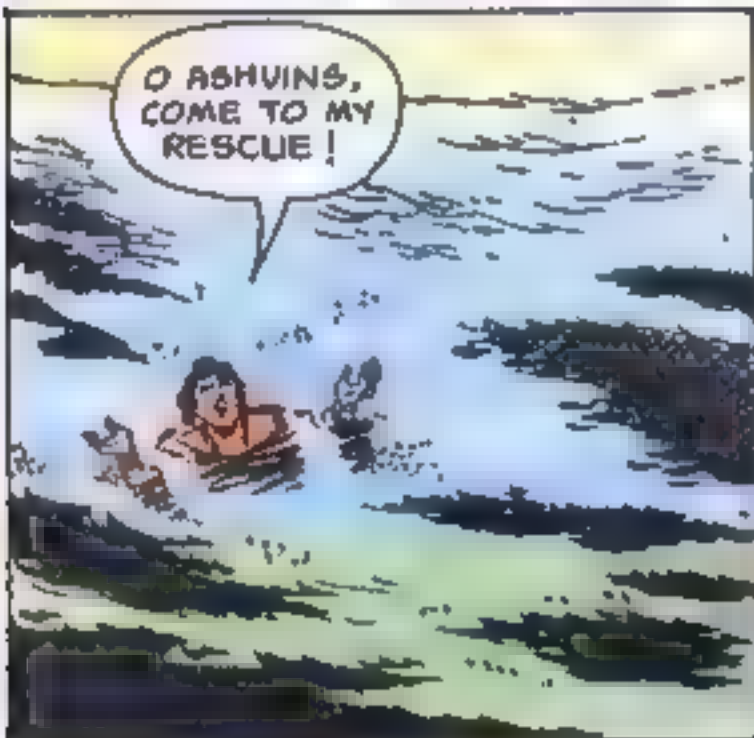
THE STORM AT LAST SUBSIDED. BHUJYU WAS ALL ALONE, AFLOAT ON THE HIGH SEAS.



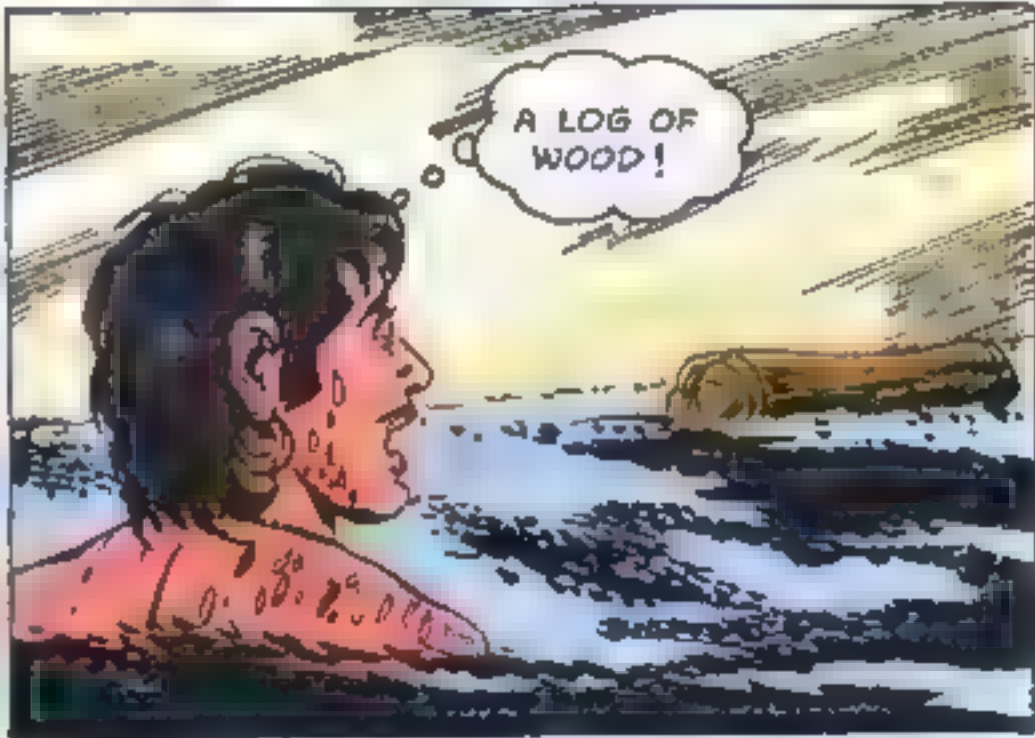
NO... I CAN'T  
KEEP IT UP...  
ANY LONGER...



O ASHVINS,  
COME TO MY  
RESCUE!



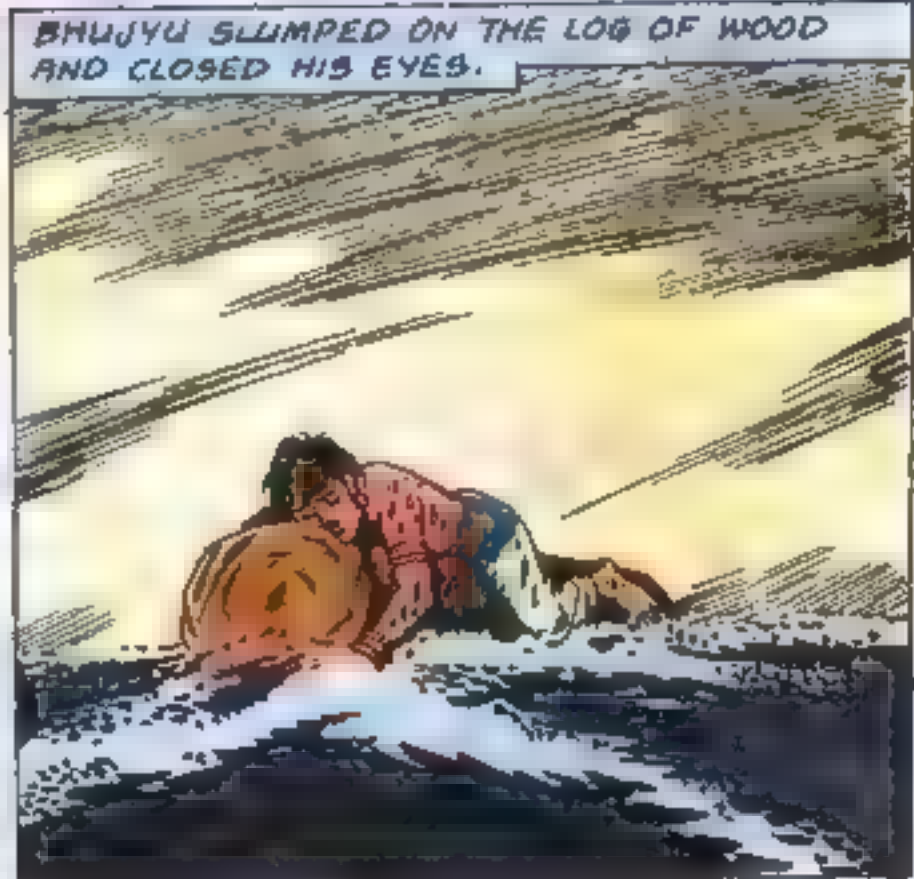
A LOG OF  
WOOD!



PRAISE  
BE TO YOUR  
NAME,  
O ASHVINS.

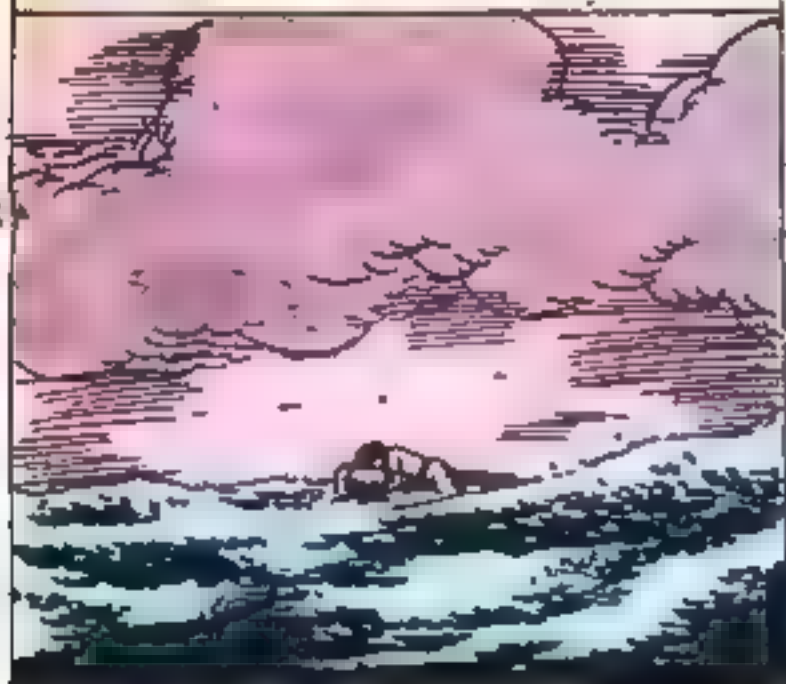


BHUJYU SLUMPED ON THE LOG OF WOOD  
AND CLOSED HIS EYES.





FOR SOME TIME BHUYU DRIFTED ON CLINGING TO THE LOG OF WOOD.



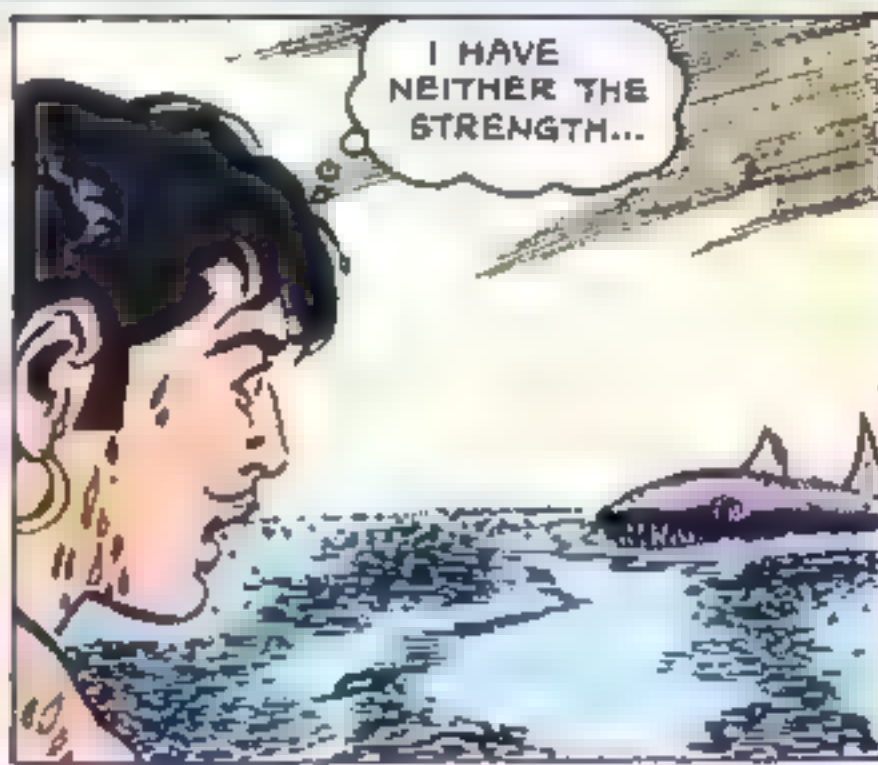
WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES —



A KILLER FISH!



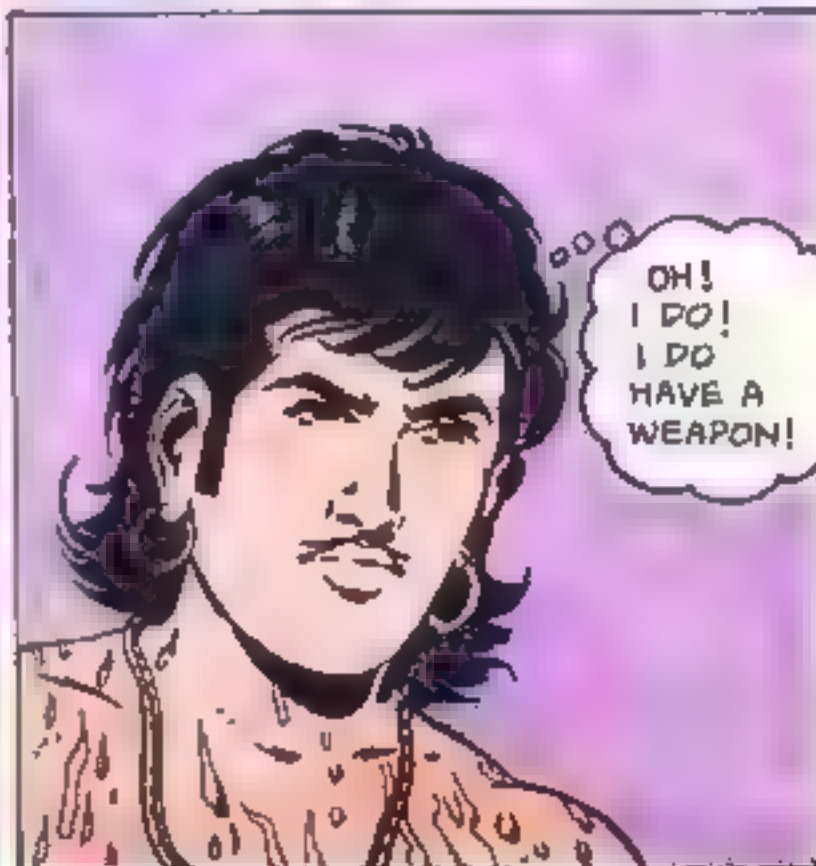
I HAVE NEITHER THE STRENGTH...



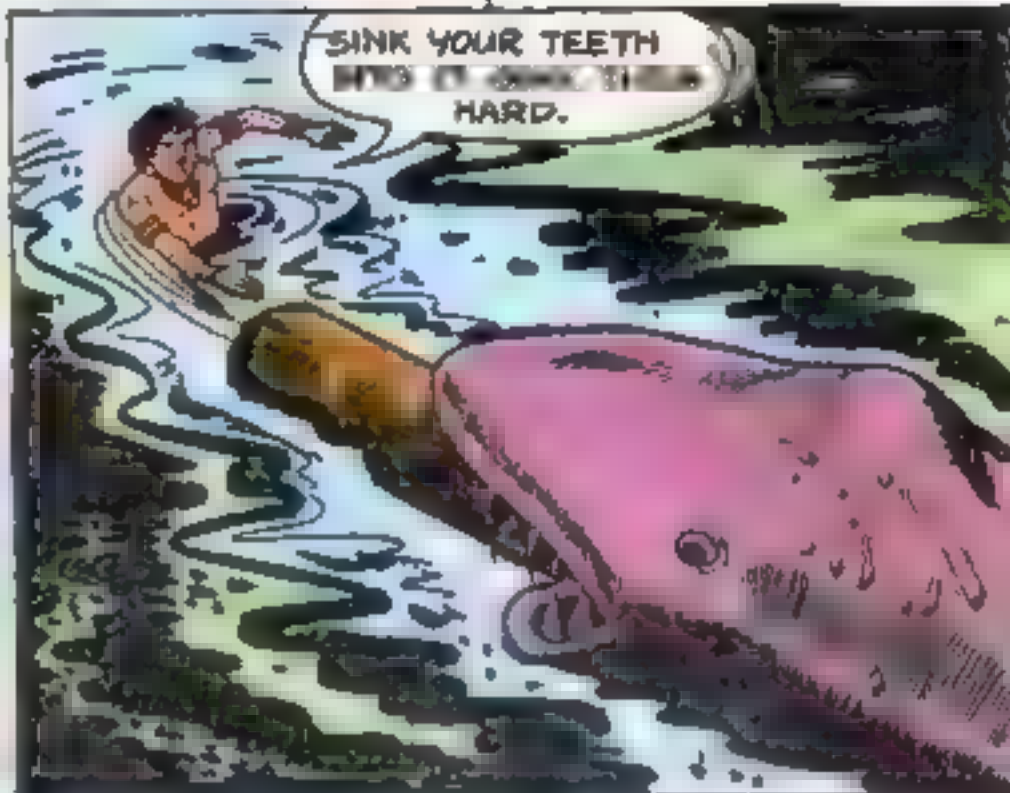
... NOR THE WEAPONS...



OH!  
I DO!  
I DO  
HAVE A  
WEAPON!





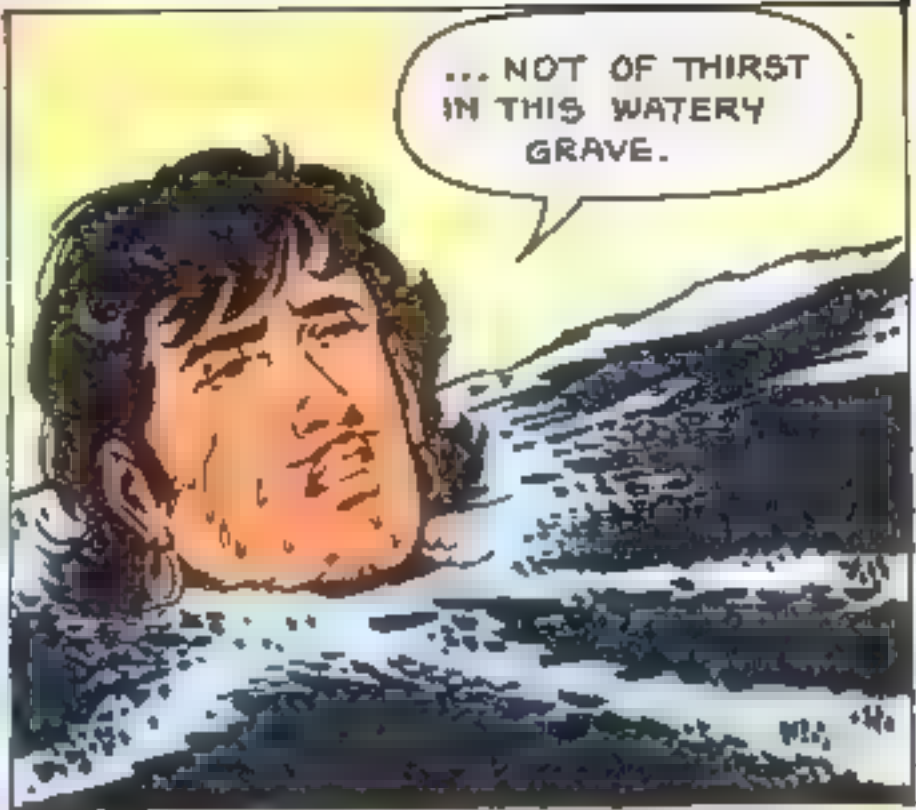




O ASHVINS, IF I MUST  
DIE, LET IT BE ON A  
BATTLEFIELD...WITH  
ARROWS PIERCING  
MY HEART...



... NOT OF THIRST  
IN THIS WATERY  
GRAVE.



O ASHVINS,  
PLEASE HELP ME!  
DON'T LET ME DIE  
A FUTILE DEATH.



O ASHVINS, YOU  
SAVED ANTAKA, VANDANA,  
REBHA, DEERGHATAMAS  
AND MANY OTHERS.



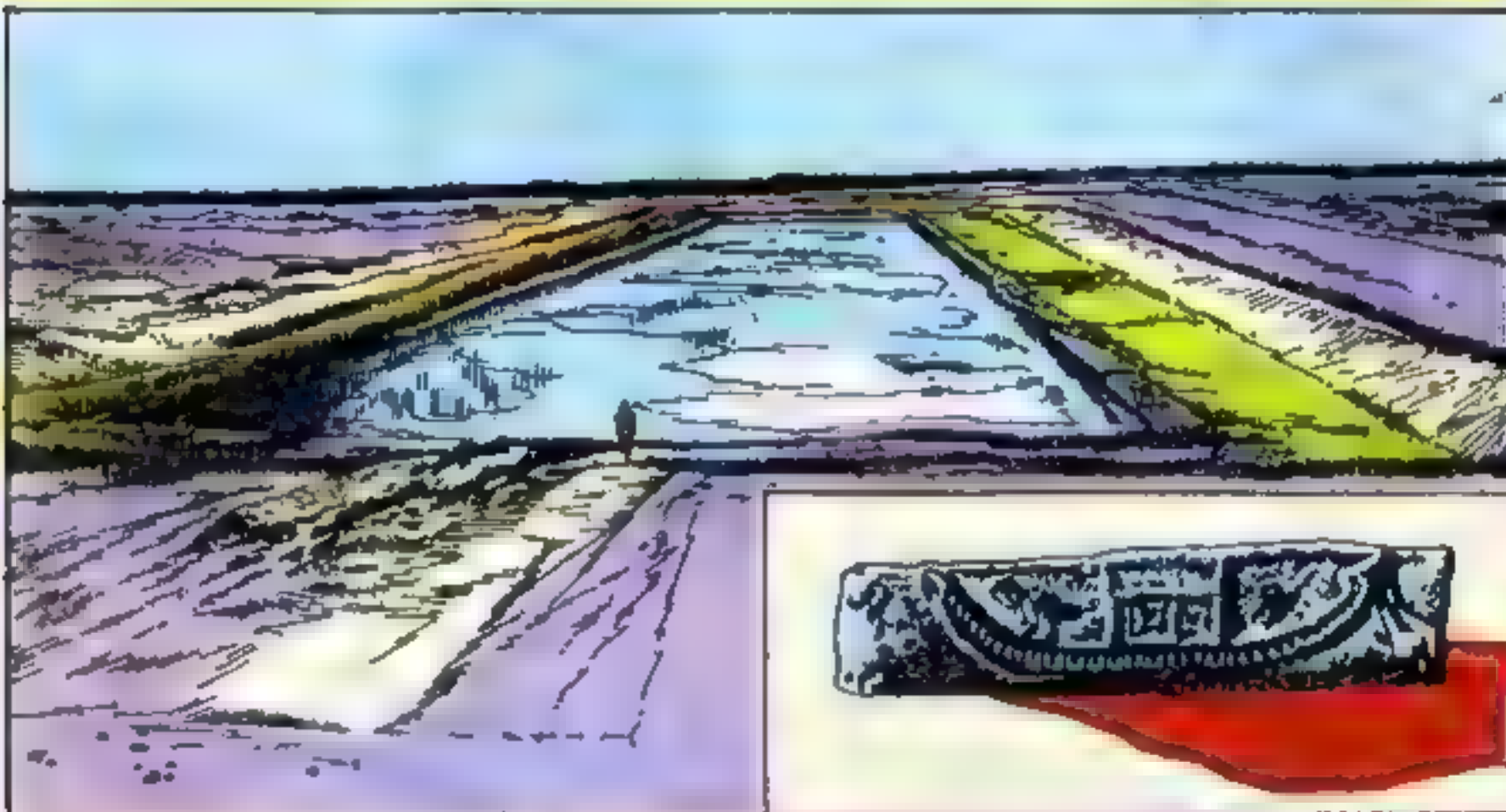
SAVE BHUYU  
WHO WORSHIPS  
YOU.



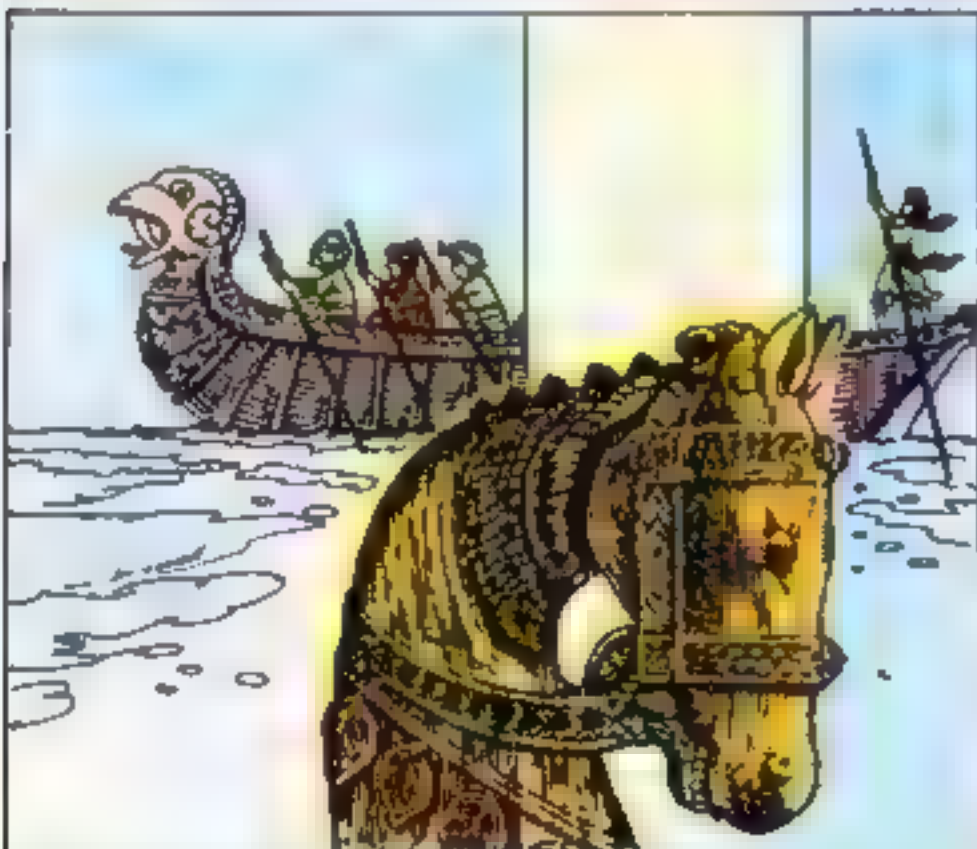


# Boats, Ships and Ports of Ancient India

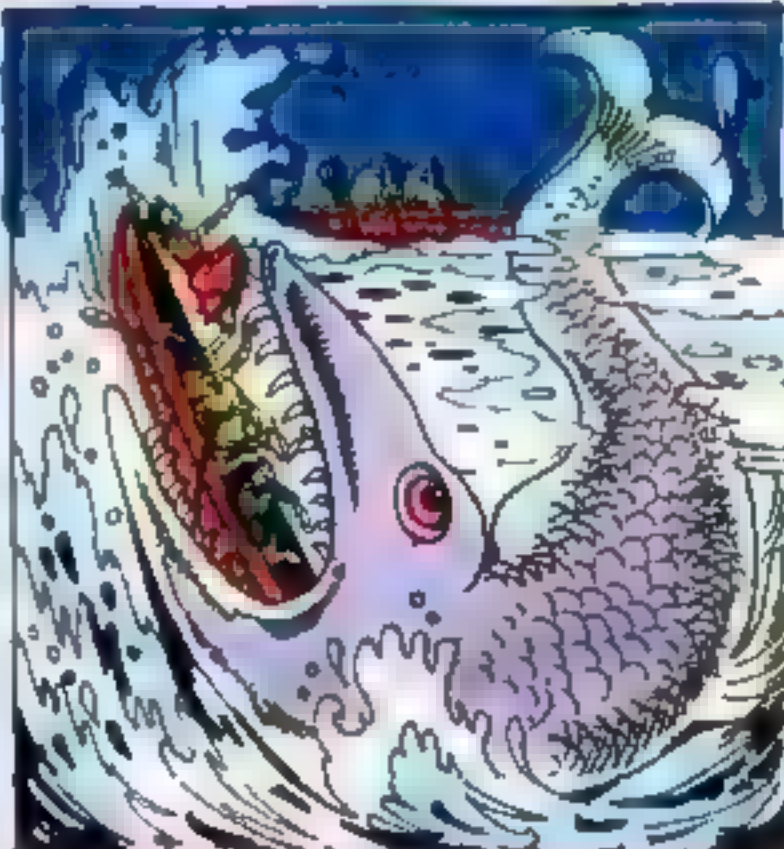
Script : Swarn Khadgar • Illustrations : Ramash Unrotkar



SHIPPING IN INDIA IS AS OLD AS HER HISTORY. THE REMAINS OF A LARGE DOCKYARD AT LOTHAL (GUJARAT) SHOW THAT THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY FLOURISHED DURING THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION. A SEAL OF MOHENJODARO TIMES FOUND IN MESOPOTAMIA HAS A SHIP MOTIF.

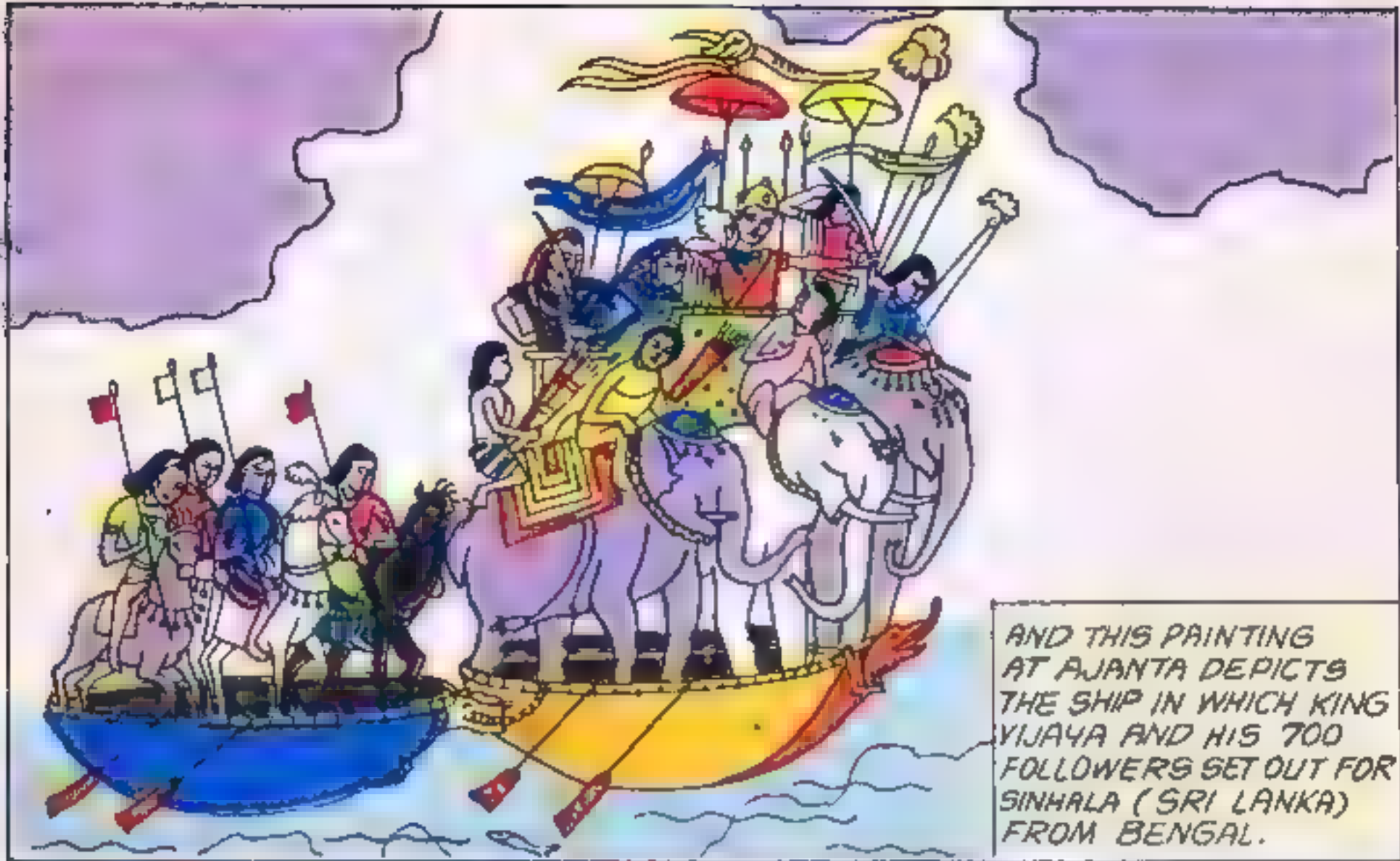


IN ANCIENT TIMES, SHIPS WERE NAVIGATED WITH THE HELP OF OARS AND RUDDERS. SOME HAD MASTS. PROWS WERE OF VARIOUS SHAPES AND STUCCOED WITH PRECIOUS STONES.



THIS CARVING FROM BHARHUT (NEAR SANCHI) SHOWS TWO BOATS WITH THREE SAILORS IN EACH. ONE OF THE BOATS IS BEING SWALLOWED BY A SEA-MONSTER.





AND THIS PAINTING AT AJANTA DEPICTS THE SHIP IN WHICH KING VIJAYA AND HIS 700 FOLLOWERS SET OUT FOR SINHALA (SRI LANKA) FROM BENGAL.



THE EARLY ANDHRAS OF THE 2ND AND 3RD CENTURIES A.D. ISSUED COINS BEARING IMAGES OF SHIPS.



THE PEOPLE OF THE EAST COAST ALSO COLONIZED JAVA AND SUMATRA THIS CARVING OF A SHIP AT THE BOROBUDUR TEMPLE CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE CATAMARAN USED TODAY ALONG THE COROMANDEL COAST. THE WORD 'CATAMARAN' LITERALLY MEANS 'BOUND LOGS' IN TAMIL.



**Attractive  
Prizes !**

## FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

- Venue** : Birla Matushri Sabhagriha,  
New Marine Lines  
(Near Bombay Hospital)
- Date & Time** : Saturday, October 27, 1984 at  
9 30 a.m.
- Theme** : Any theme of your choice from  
the titles published so far in  
either **AMAR CHITRA KATHA**  
or **TINKLE**
- Eligibility** : 1. Open to readers of AMAR  
CHITRA KATHA and TINKLE  
living in and around Bombay.  
2. Age limit :  
Group A: 8 to 11 years  
Group B: 12 to 14 years
- Elimination  
Round** : An elimination round in full  
costume will be held on October  
26, 1984, from 9.30 a.m. to  
12.30 p.m. Only those who are  
selected in the elimination round  
will participate in the fancy dress  
competition, to be held on  
October 27, 1984.
- Registration** : Register with us today by giving  
your name, address, age and the  
item you wish to present.

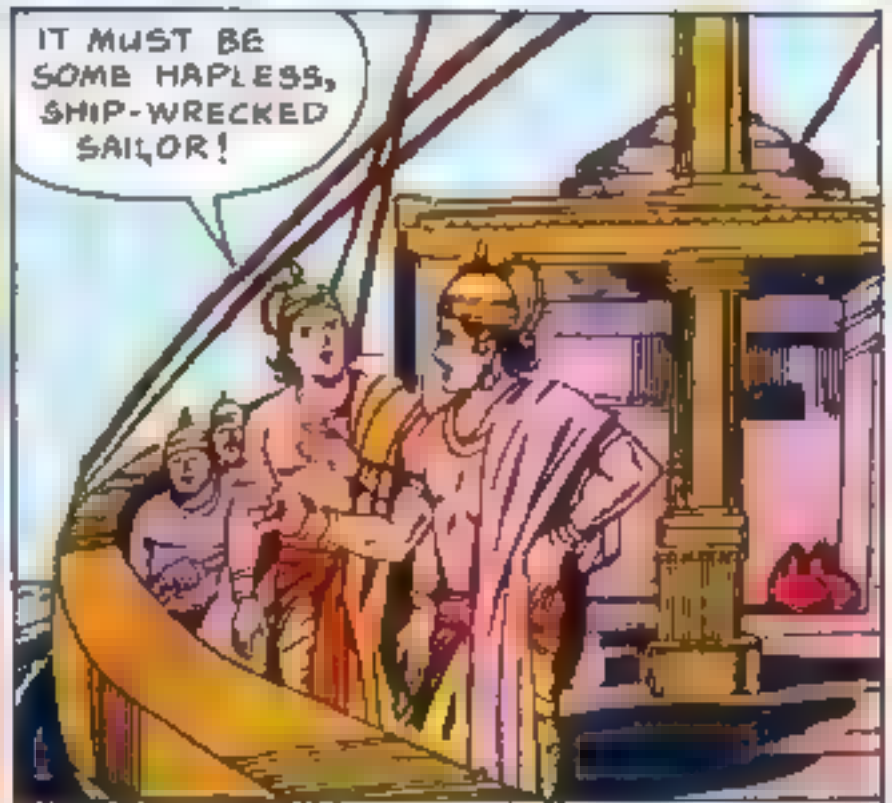
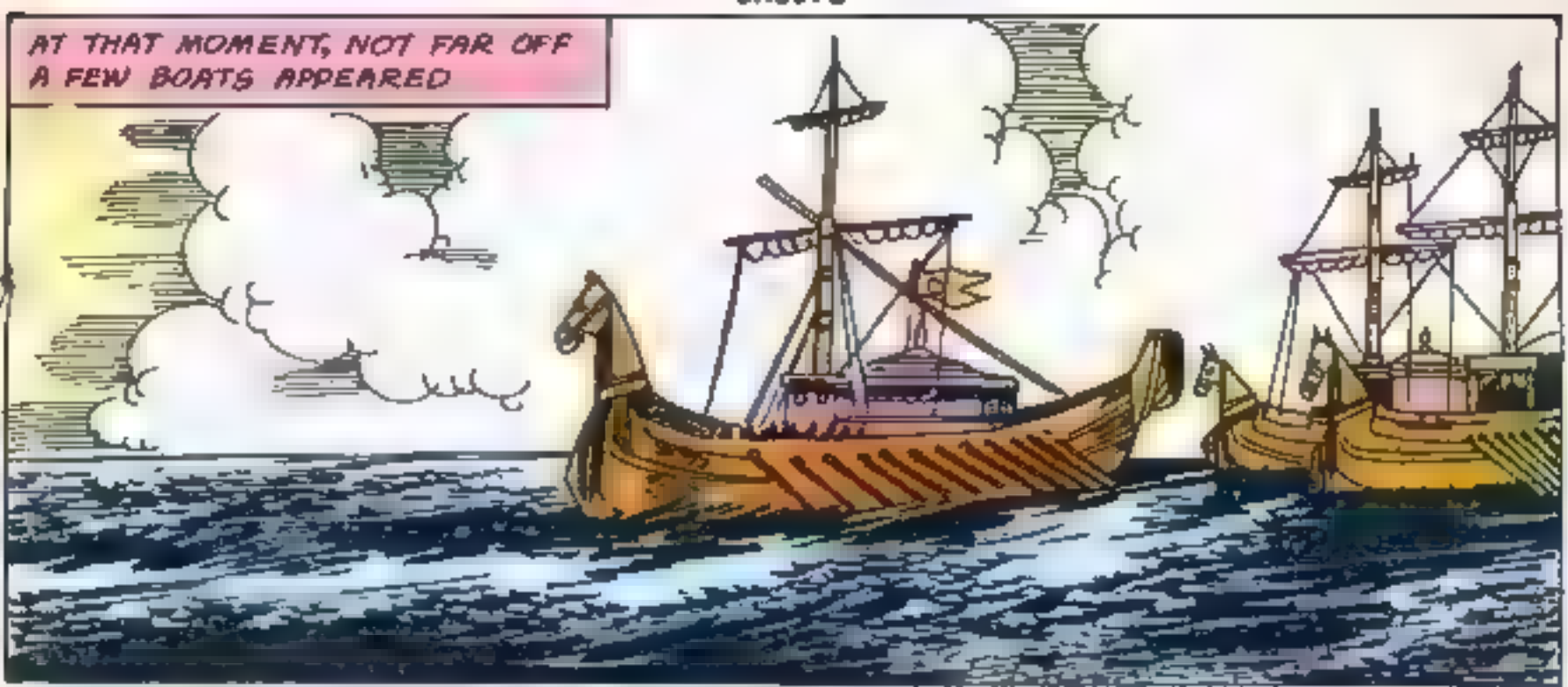


Fancy Dress Competition Section  
**AMAR CHITRA KATHA**  
Mahalaxmi Chambers (Basement)  
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road  
BOMBAY 400 026

**ONLY THE FIRST 100 CHILDREN WHO WRITE TO  
US REGISTERING THEIR NAMES WILL BE ALLOWED  
TO TAKE PART IN THE ELIMINATION ROUND.**

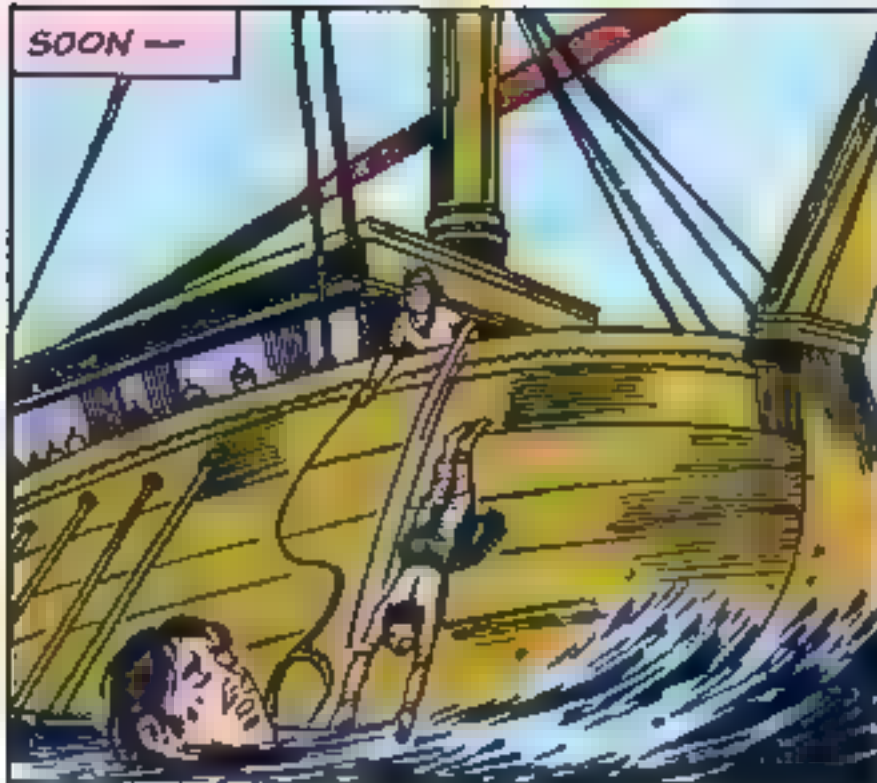


AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR OFF  
A FEW BOATS APPEARED

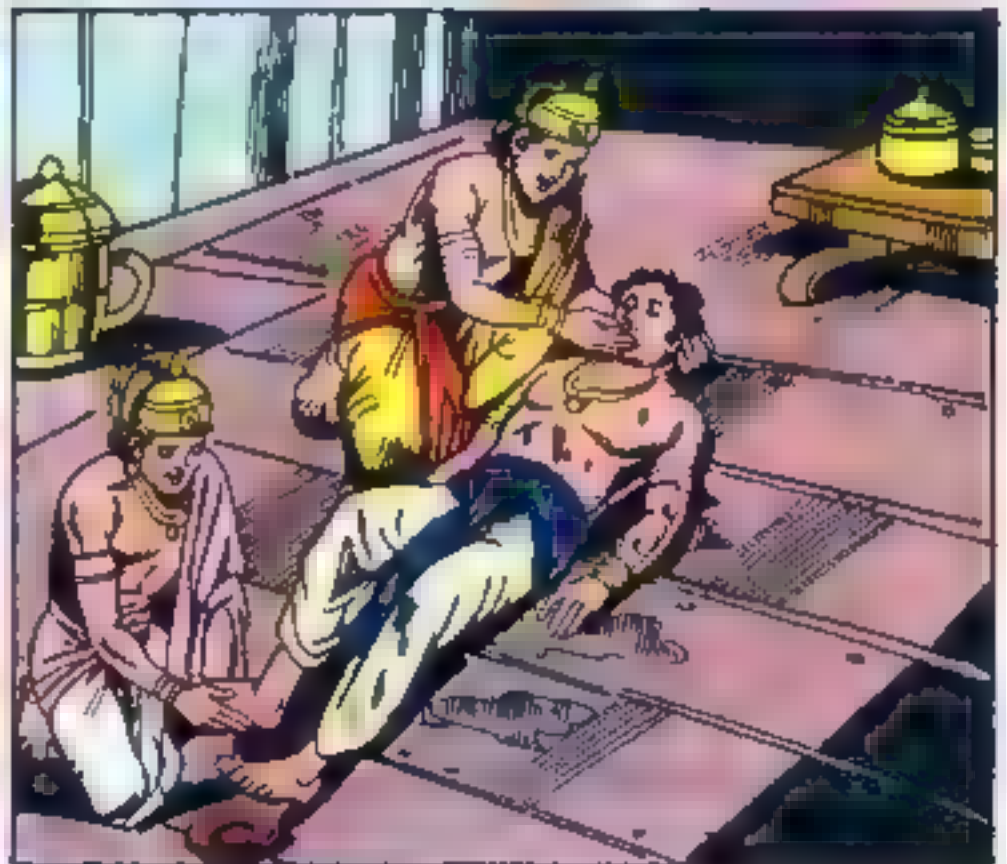
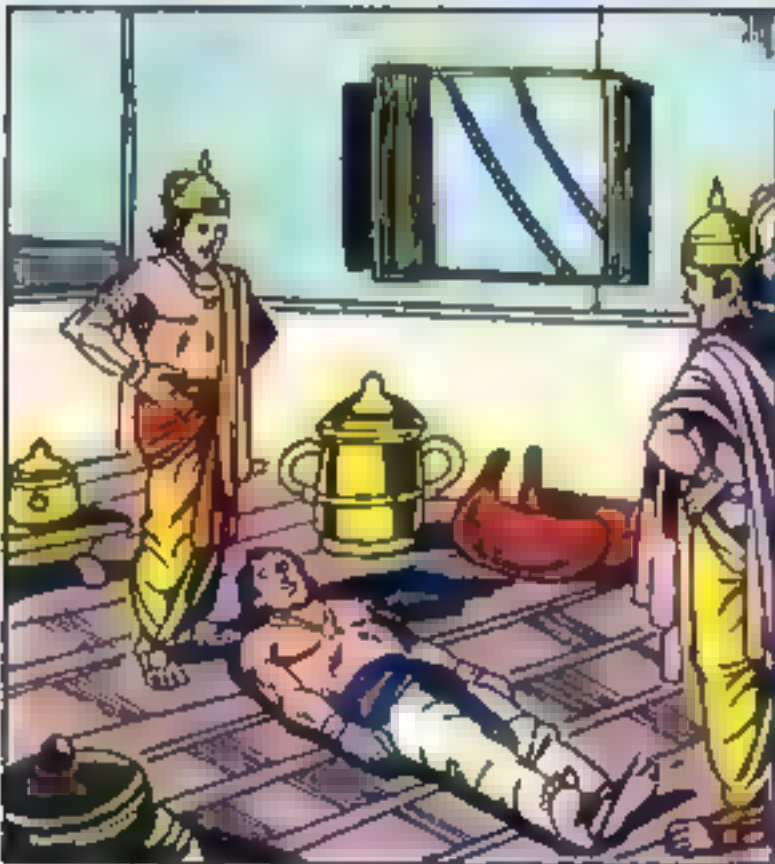
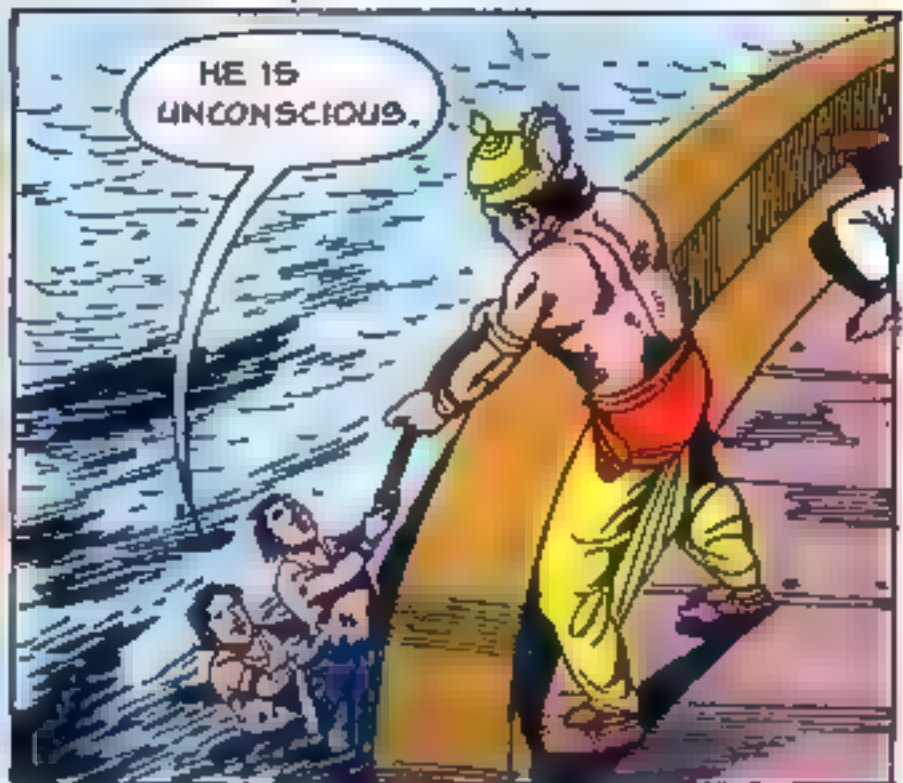




SOON —



HE IS UNCONSCIOUS.

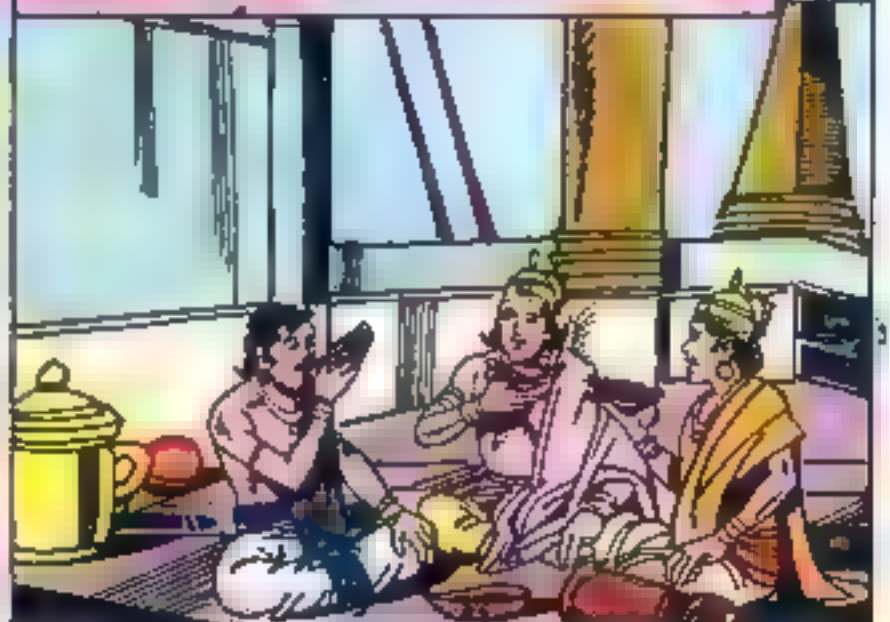


WHEN BHUYU AT LAST OPENED HIS EYES —

YOU MUST BE THE ASHVINS, THE MIGHTY HEROES, HELPERS OF ALL. ACCEPT MY SALUTATIONS!

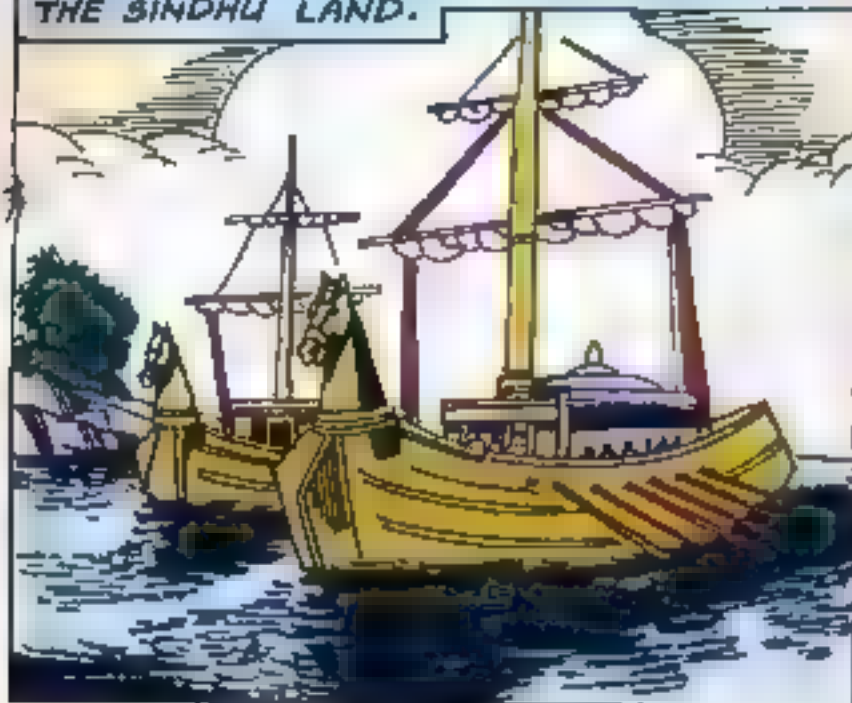


THEN THE ASHVINS GAVE BHUYU SOME HONEY, MILK AND SOMA AND HAD SOME THEMSELVES.

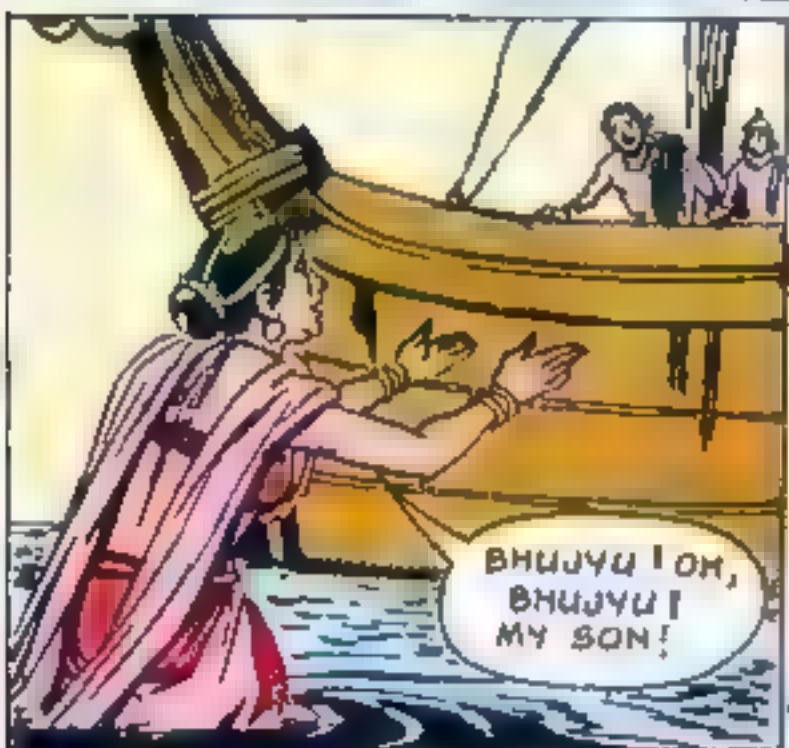
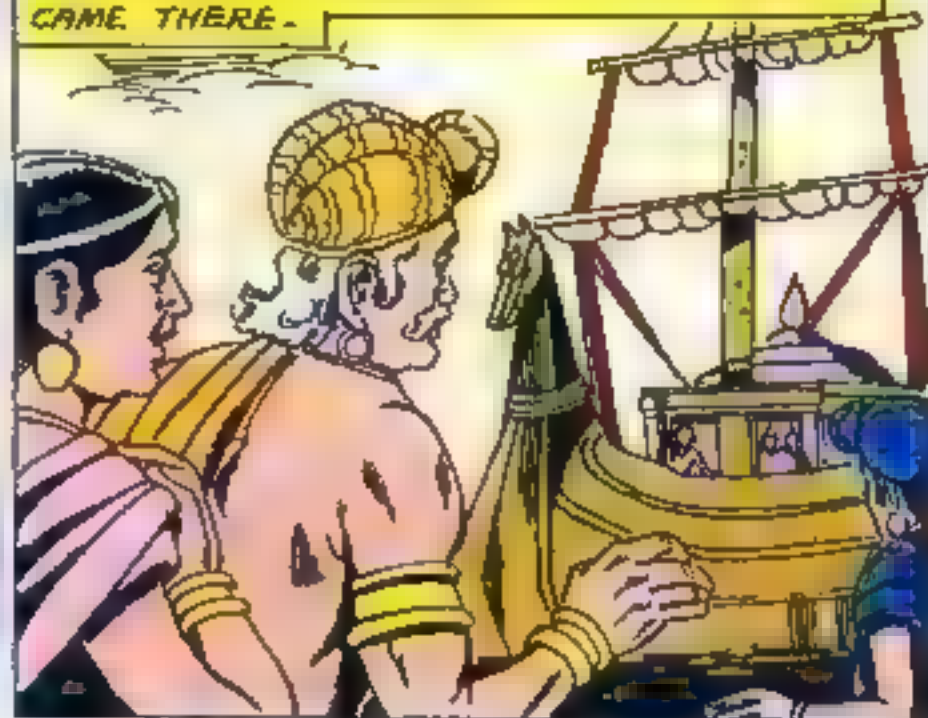




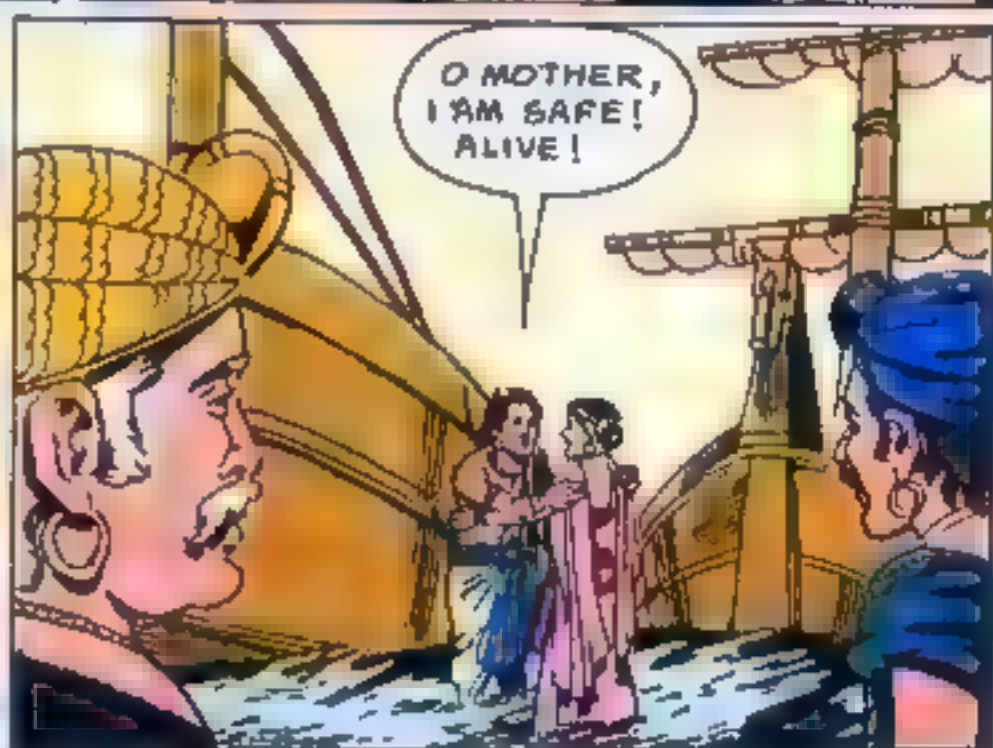
AFTER THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS, THEIR BOATS REACHED THE SHORES OF THE SINDHU LAND.



AS SOON AS THEY HEARD OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE BOATS, TUGRA AND HIS QUEEN CAME THERE.

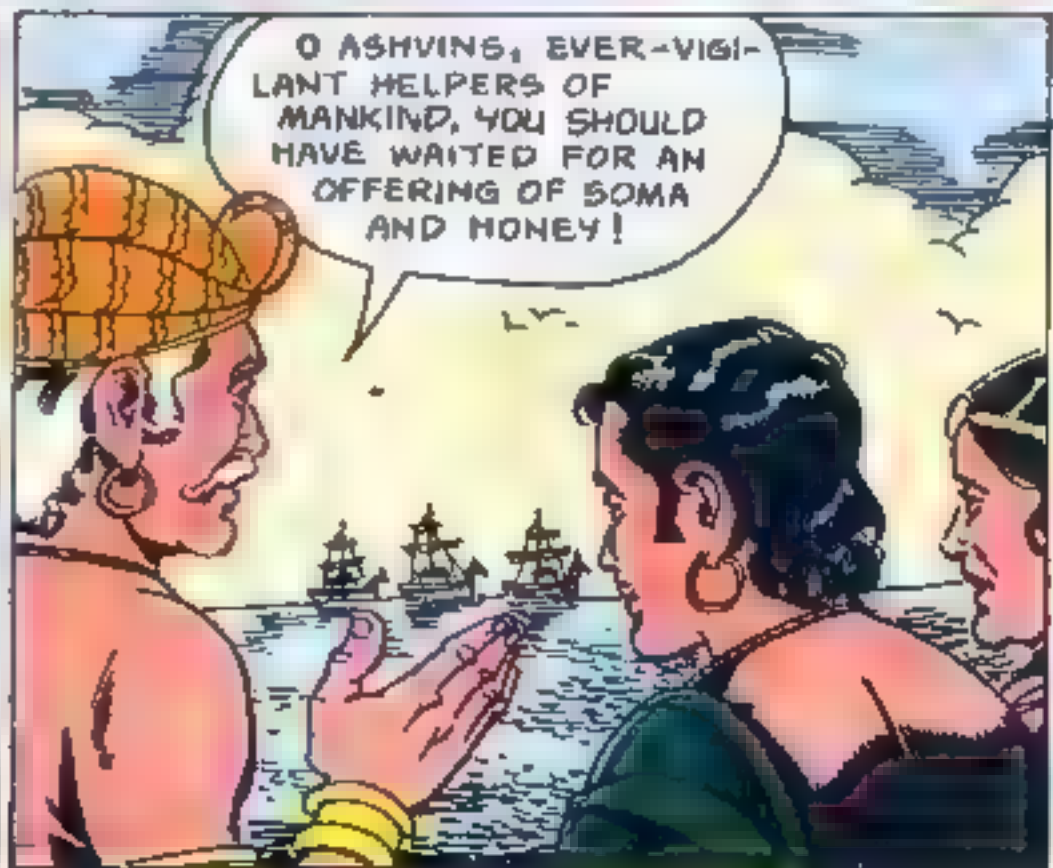
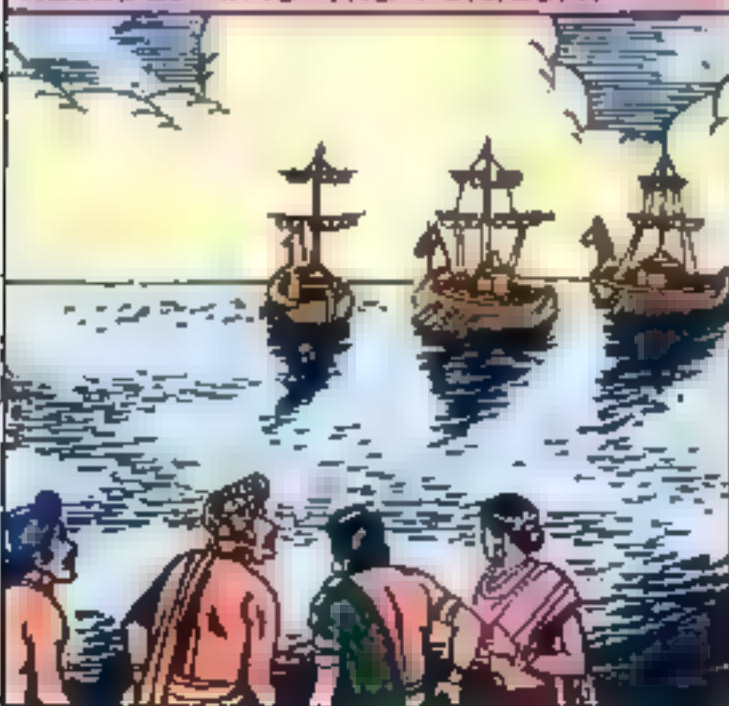


BHUVYU! OH,  
BHUVYU!  
MY SON!



O MOTHER,  
I AM SAFE!  
ALIVE!

BY THE TIME THE REUNITED FAMILY LOOKED UP, THE BOATS WITH THE TWINS IN THEM HAD RECEDED INTO THE HORIZON.



O ASHVINS, EVER-VIGILANT  
HELPERS OF MANKIND, YOU SHOULD  
HAVE WAITED FOR AN  
OFFERING OF SOMA  
AND MONEY!



LATER —

FATHER, PERMIT ME TO RESUME THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ISLAND CHIEF.

ARE YOU NOT AFRAID OF THE SEA?

NO, FATHER.

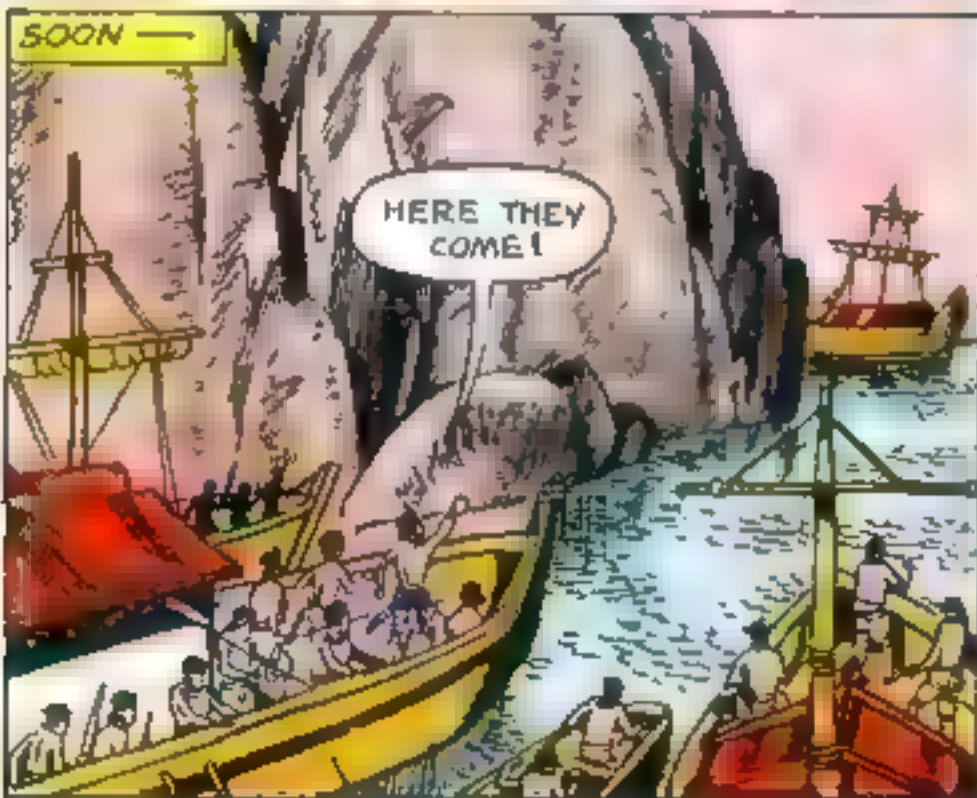
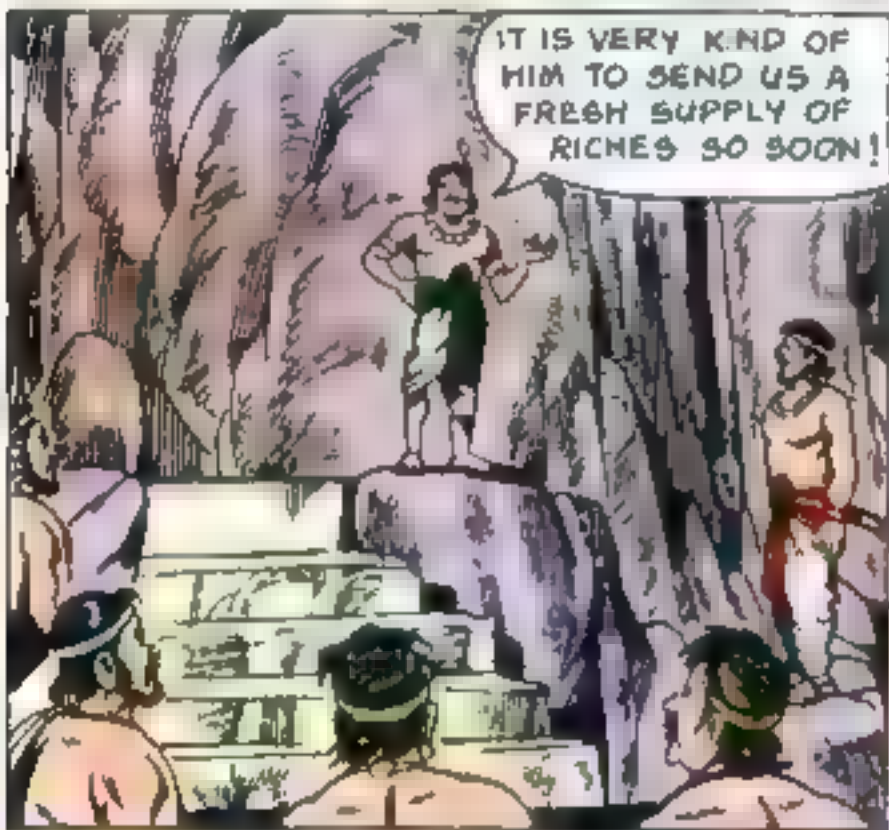
ON THE CONTRARY I AM MORE CONFIDENT.

WITH THE ASHVINS ON MY SIDE, I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

I WILL NOT STOP YOU, SON. YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.

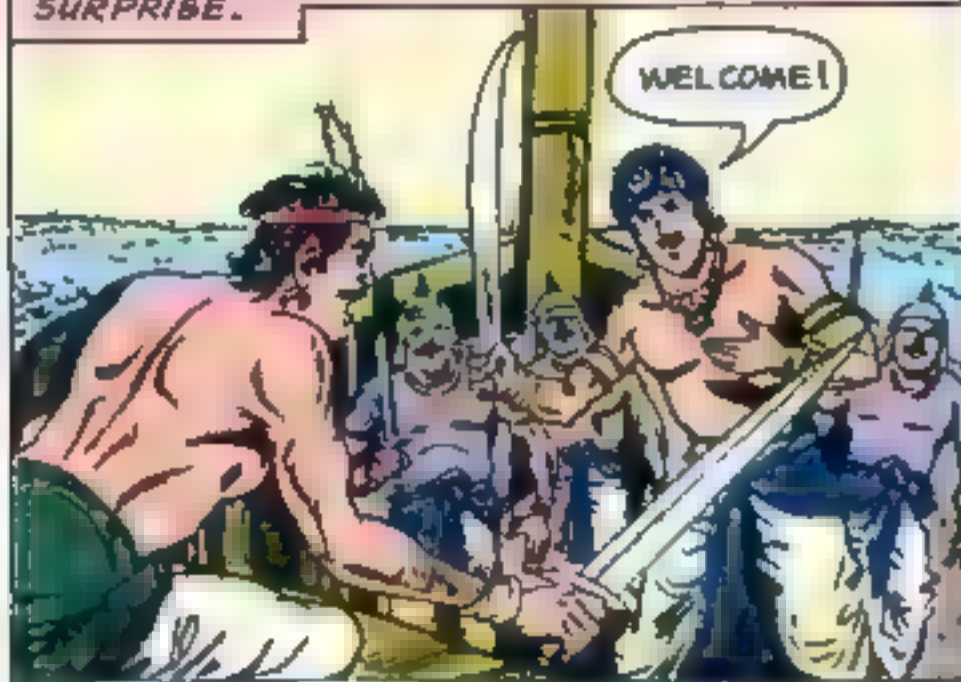


A FEW WEEKS LATER —

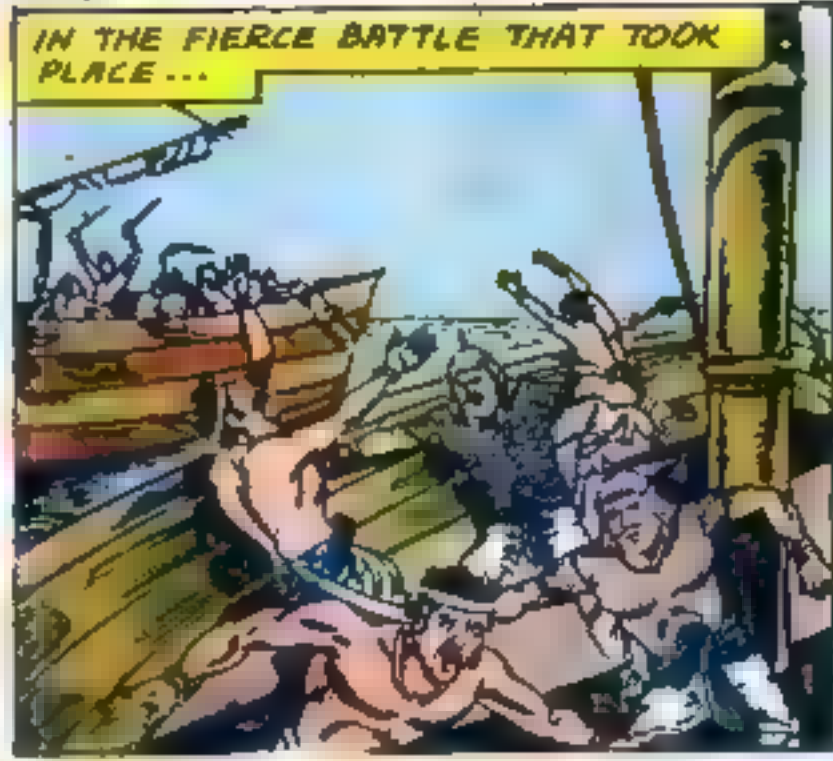




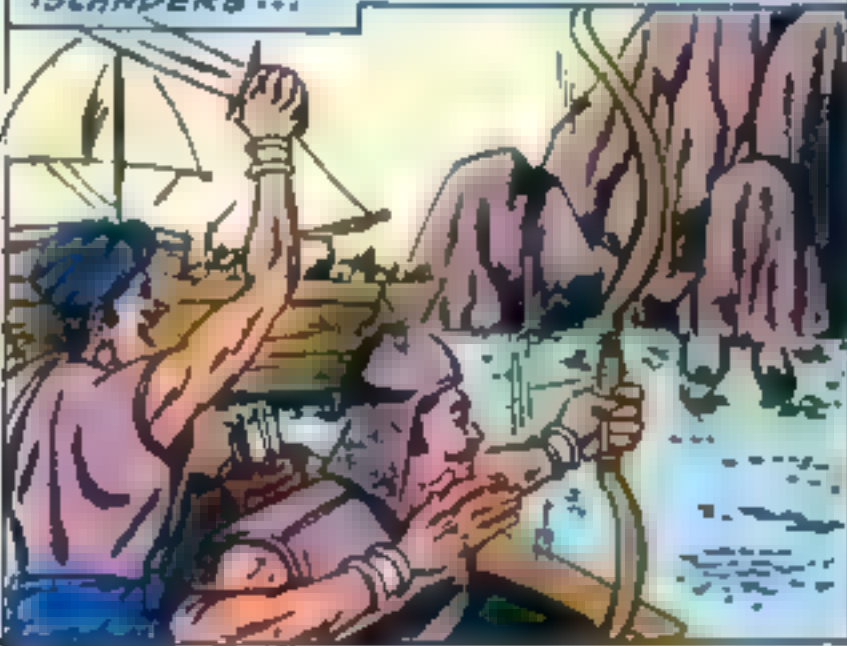
THIS TIME THE ISLANDERS WERE IN FOR A SURPRISE.



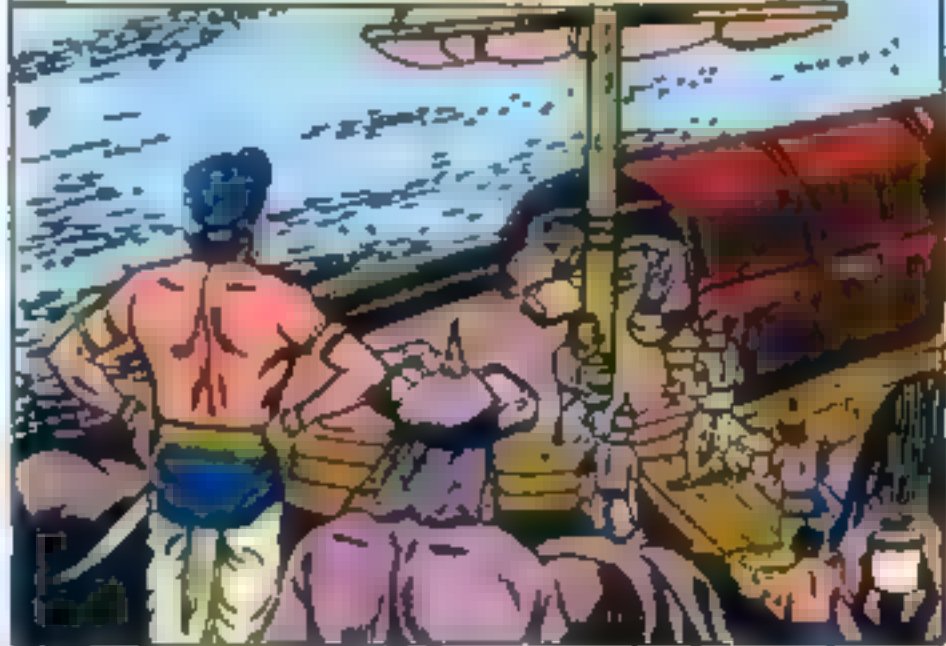
IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE...



...BHUVU'S MEN OVERPOWERED THE ISLANDERS...



...RECOVERED THE STOLEN RICHES...



...AND RETURNED HOME IN TRIUMPH.

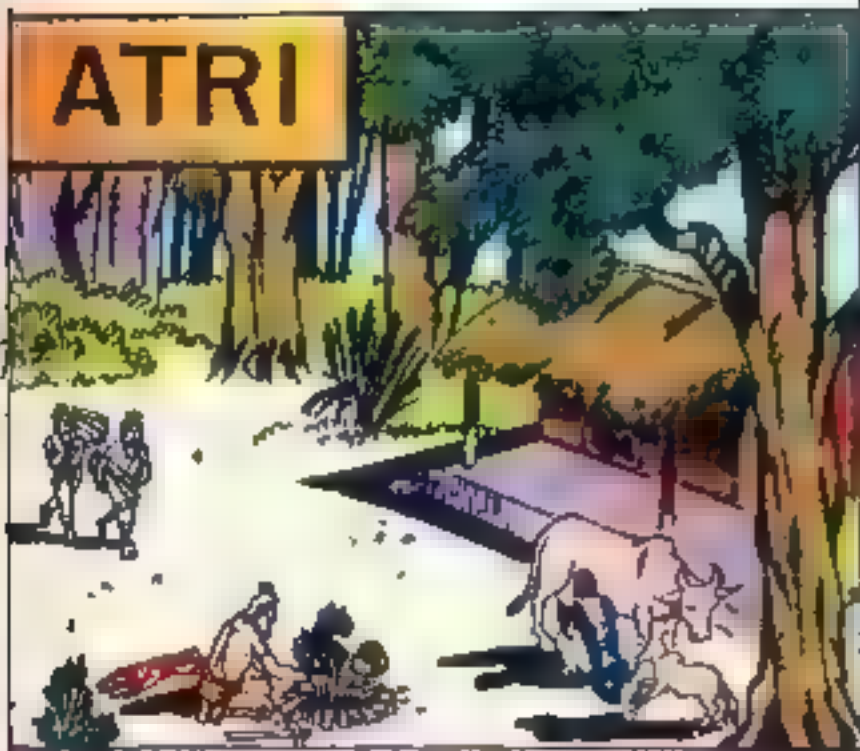


THE SEAS ARE NOW SAFE FOR THE TRADERS OF TUGRA. IN PERFORMING YOUR DHARMA, YOU HAVE HELPED ME PERFORM MINE. I AM PROUD OF YOU, MY SON.

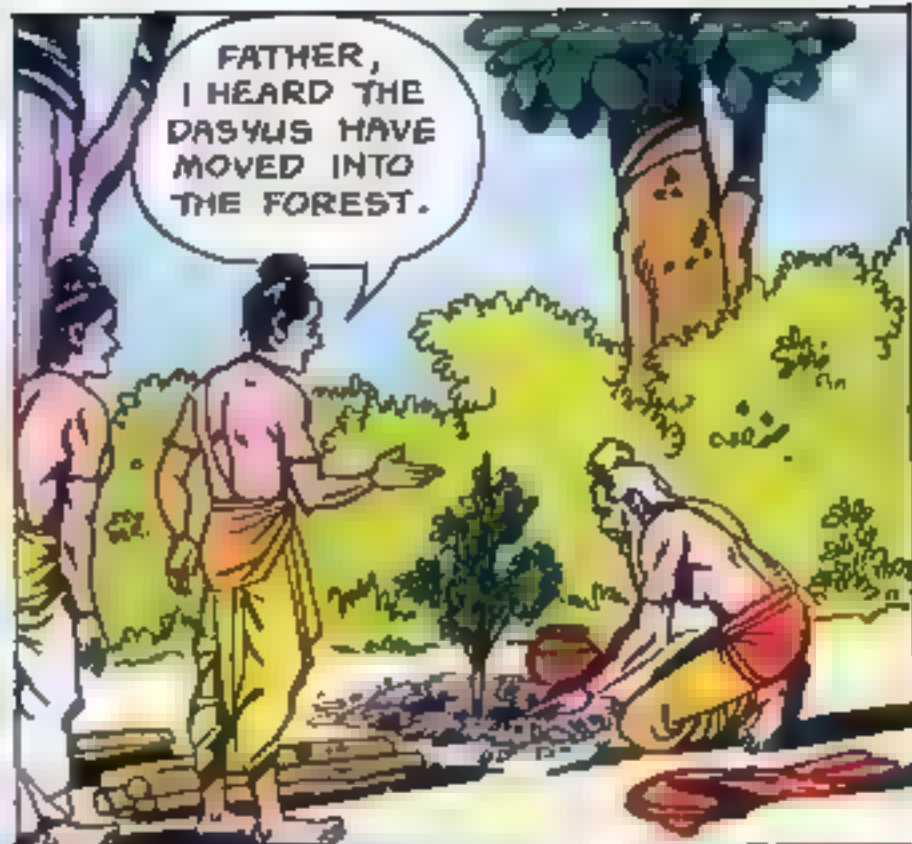




# ATRI



SAGE ATRI LIVED WITH HIS FAMILY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A FOREST.



FATHER, I HEARD THE DASYUS HAVE MOVED INTO THE FOREST.



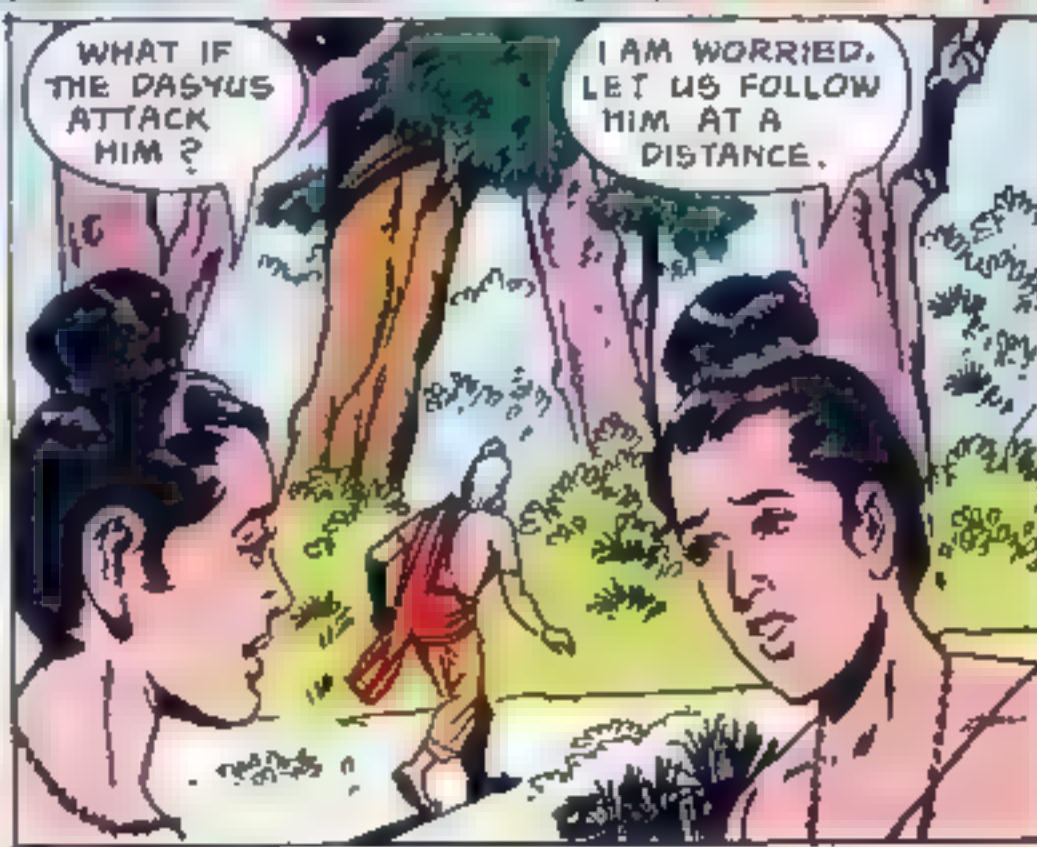
HOW DOES THAT CONCERN ME?



YOU MUST NOT GO ABOUT IN THE FOREST ANYMORE



WHY NOT? SURELY THE FOREST IS LARGE ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US.



WHAT IF THE DASYUS ATTACK HIM?

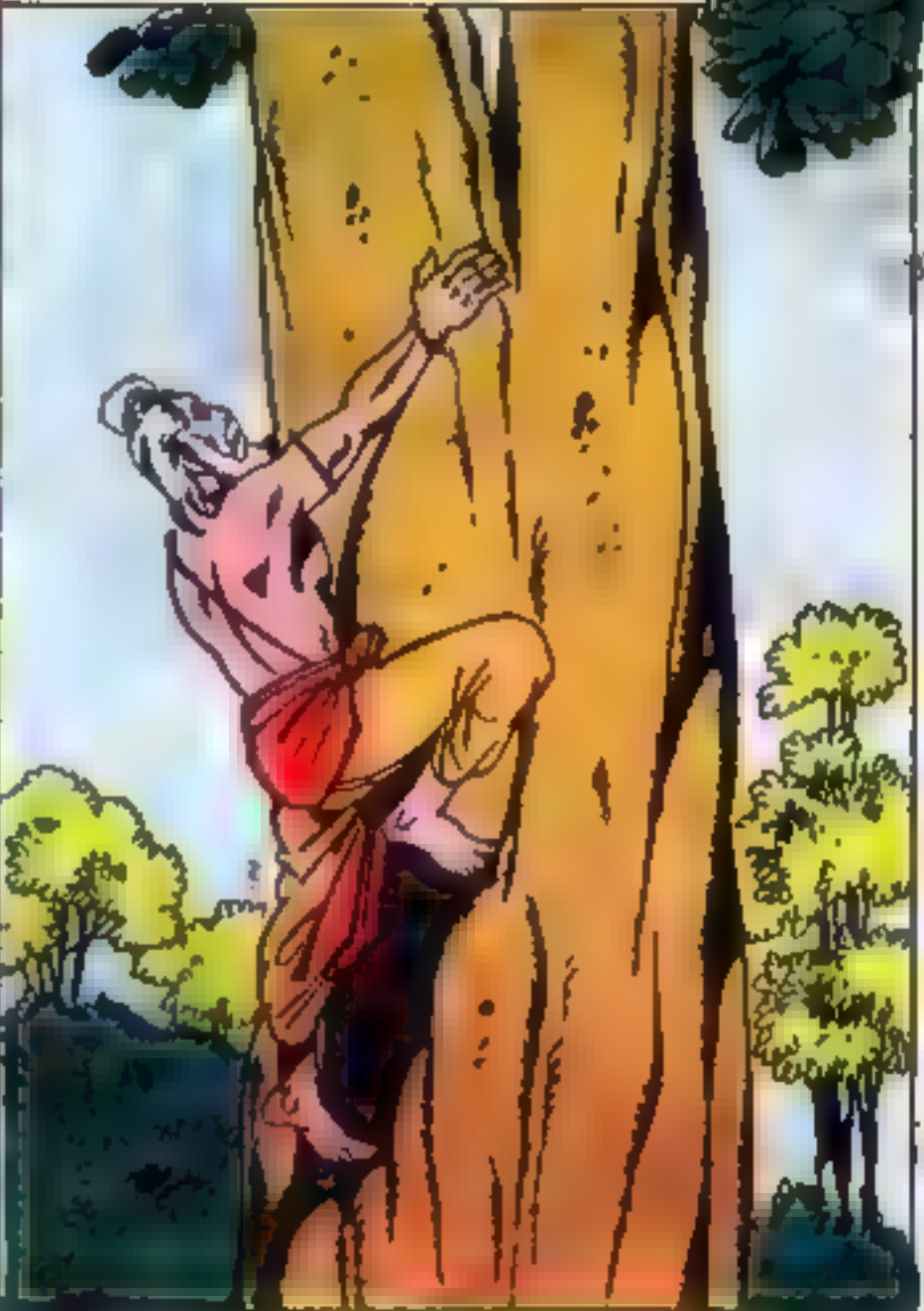
I AM WORRIED. LET US FOLLOW HIM AT A DISTANCE.



ATRI WALKED ON AND ON TILL HE REACHED THE THICKEST PART OF THE FOREST.

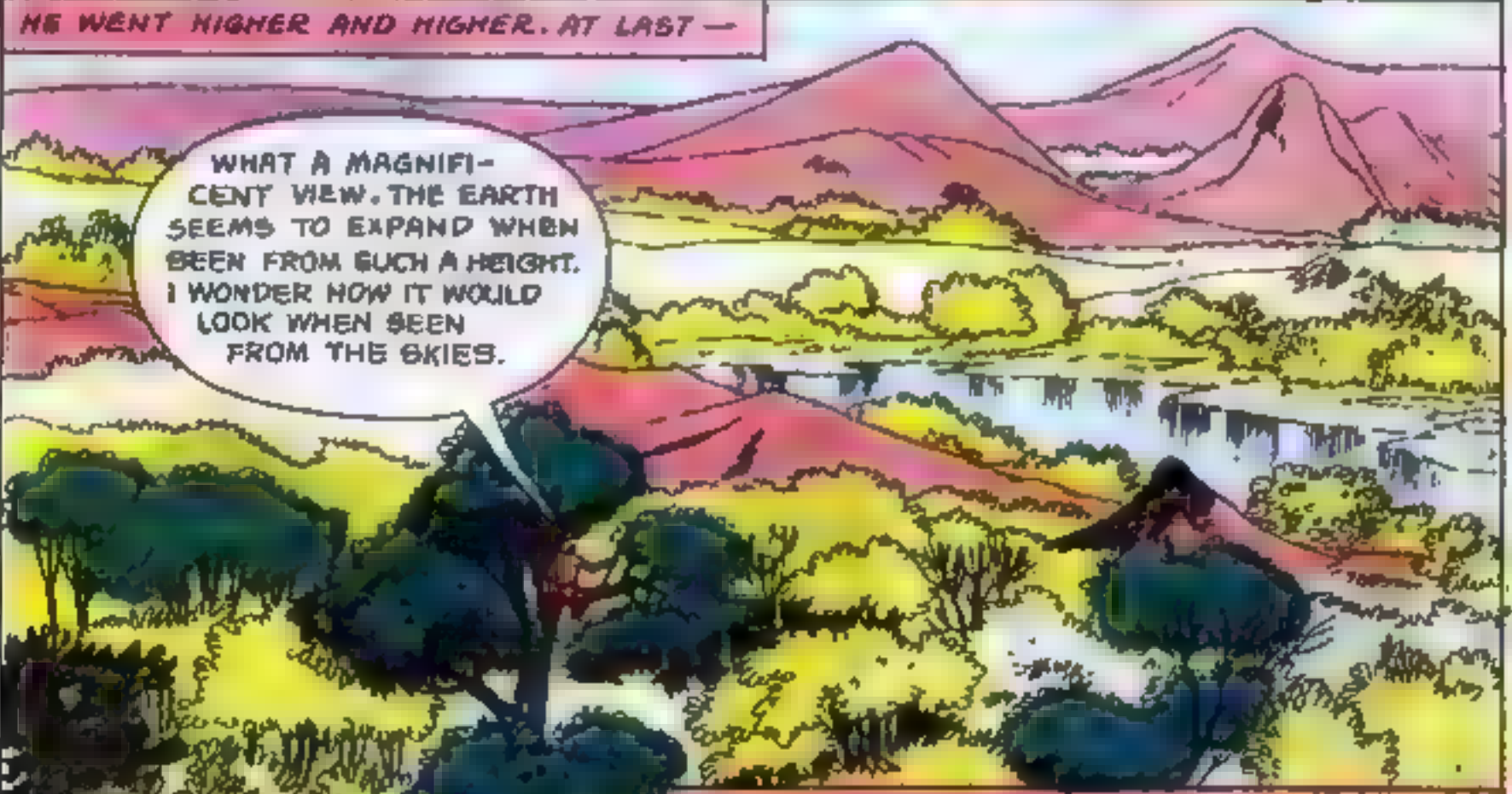


ATRI BEGAN TO CLIMB THE TREE.



HE WENT HIGHER AND HIGHER. AT LAST —

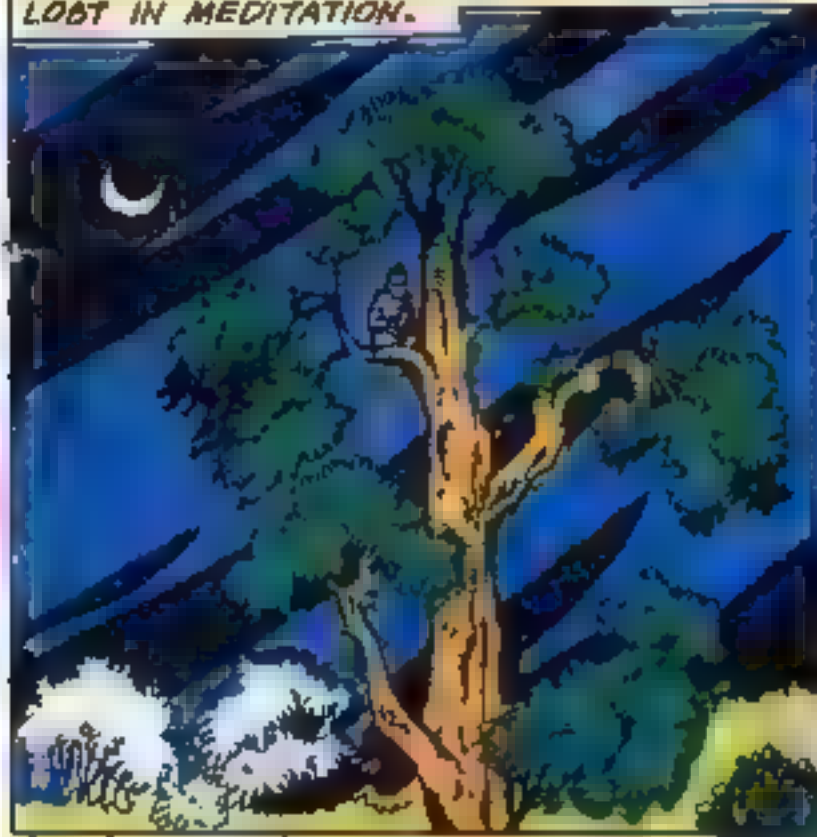
WHAT A MAGNIFICENT VIEW. THE EARTH SEEMS TO EXPAND WHEN SEEN FROM SUCH A HEIGHT. I WONDER HOW IT WOULD LOOK WHEN SEEN FROM THE SKIES.



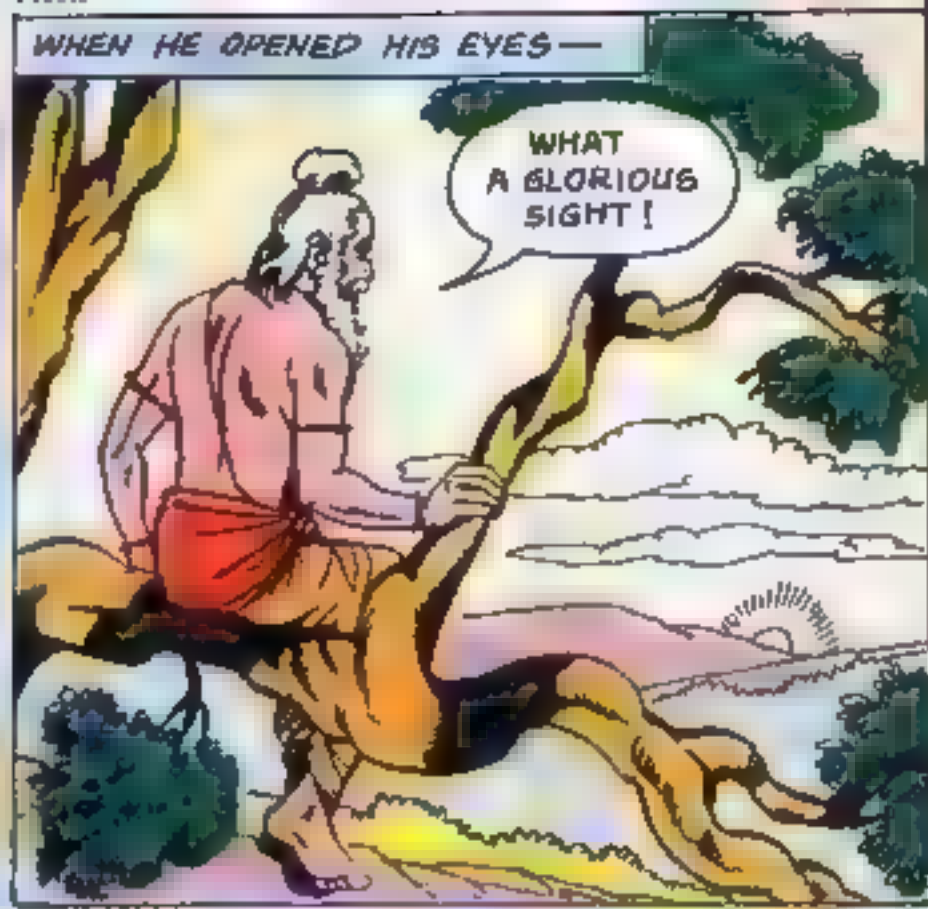
AND HE BEGAN TO MEDITATE ON THE IDEA



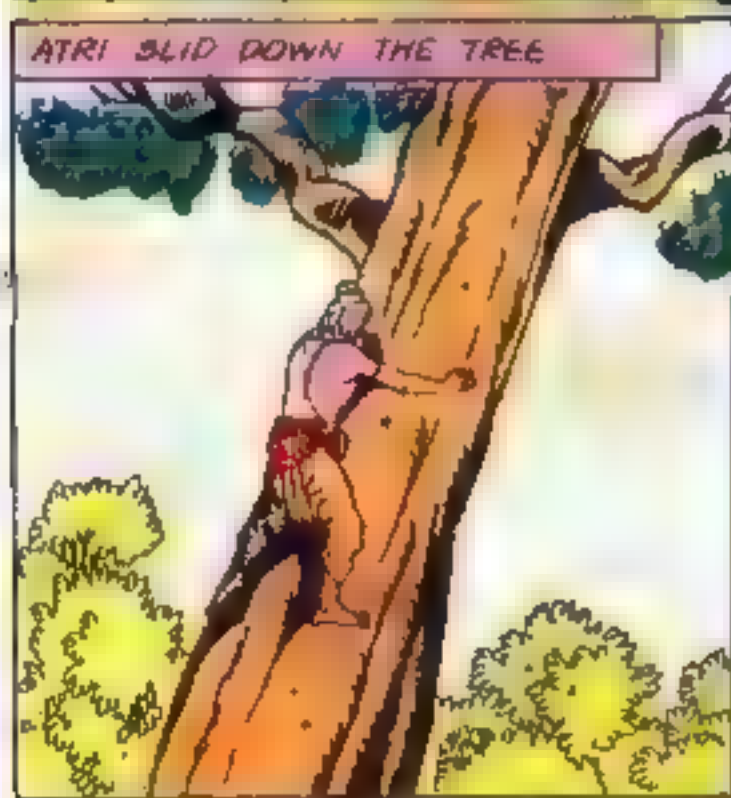
SOON IT WAS NIGHT. ATRI WAS STILL  
LOST IN MEDITATION.



WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES —



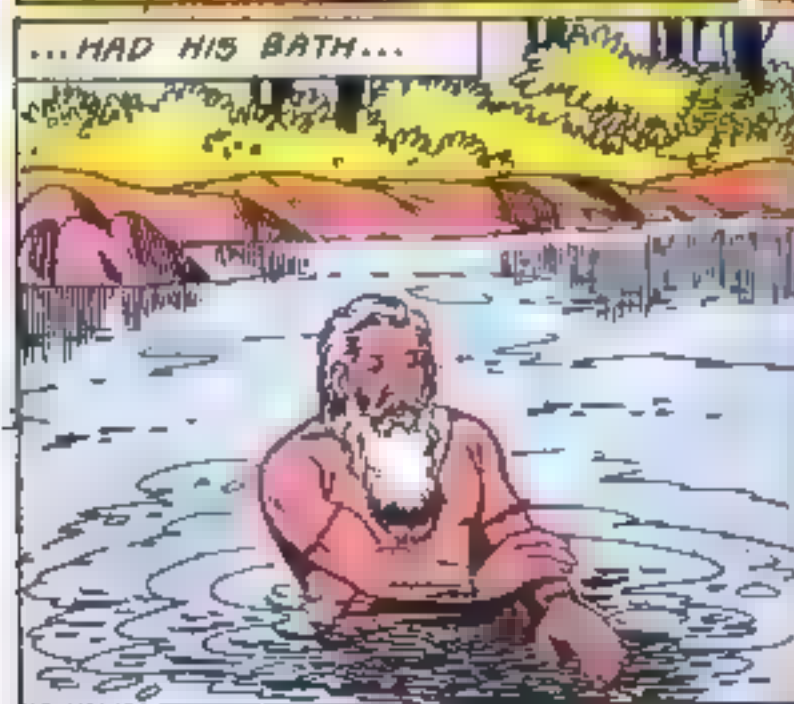
ATRI SLID DOWN THE TREE



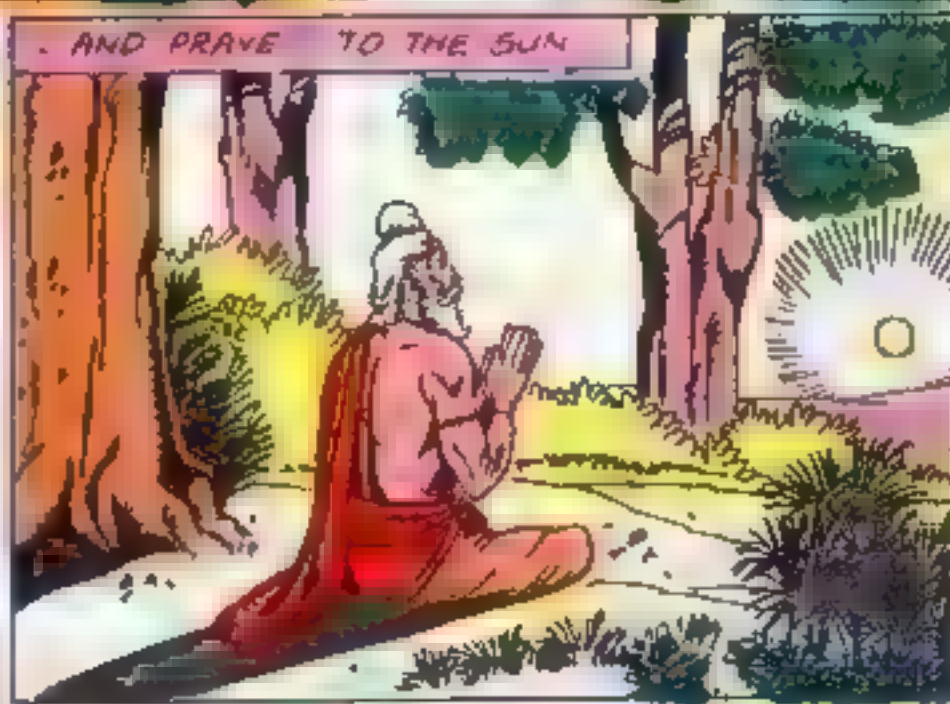
.. WALKED TO A STREAM NEAR BY ..



...HAD HIS BATH...

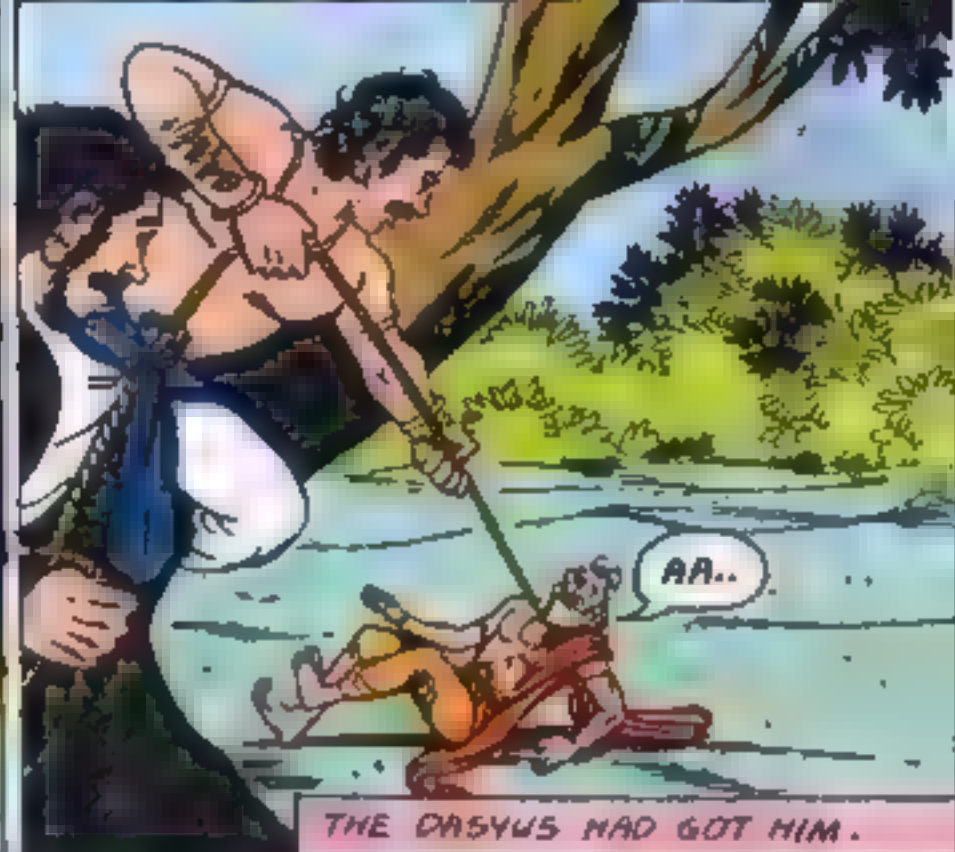
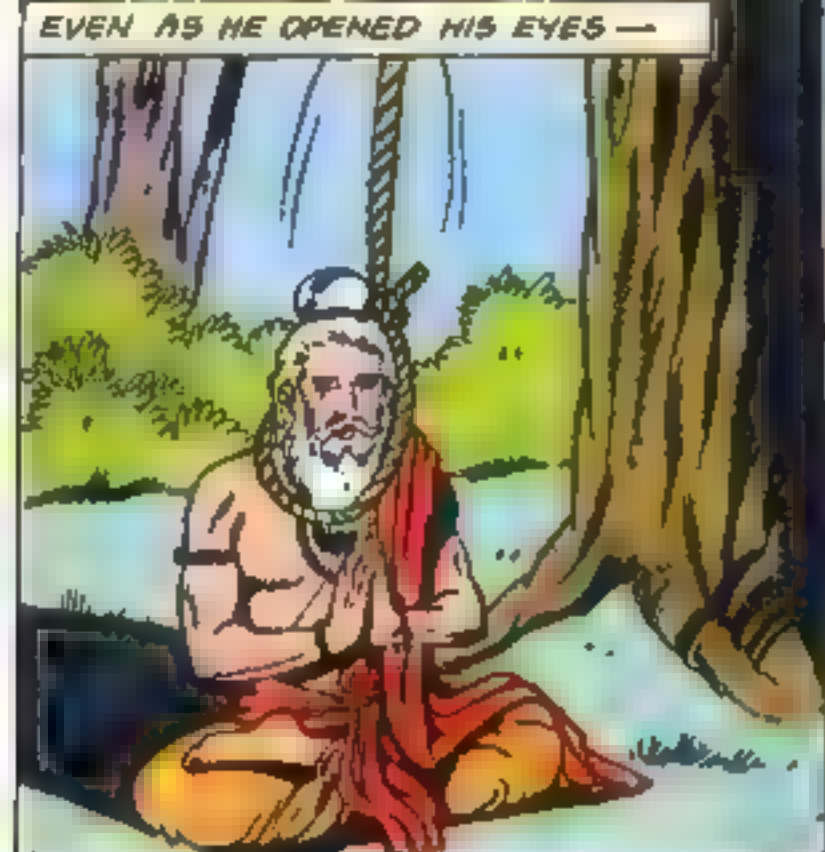


.. AND PRAYE TO THE SUN



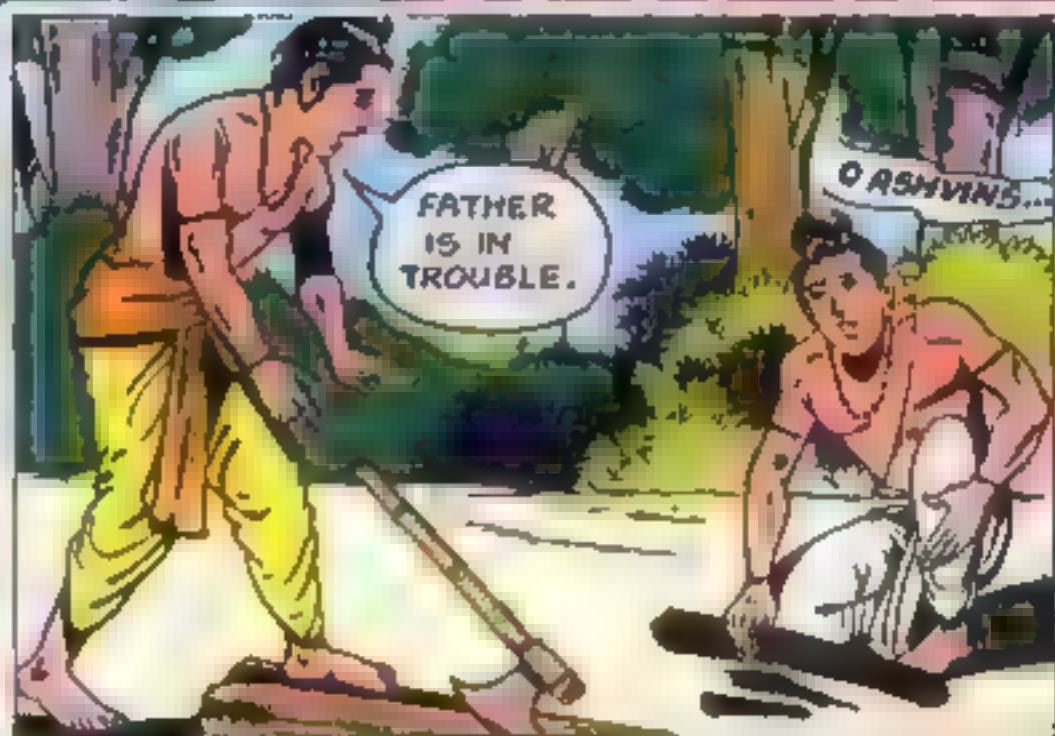


EVEN AS HE OPENED HIS EYES —

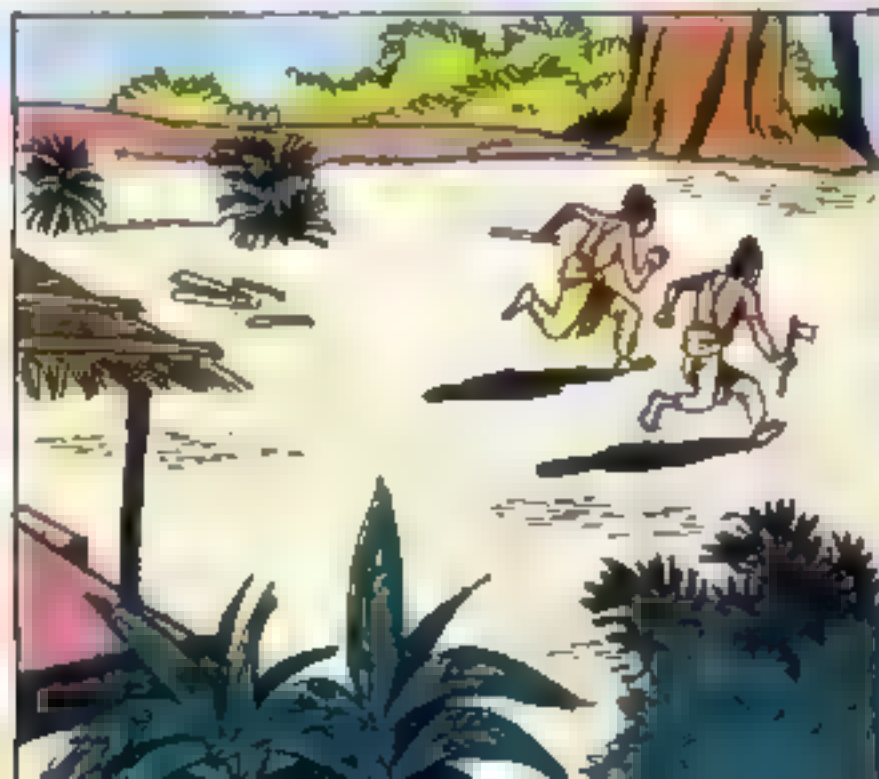


THE DASYUS HAD GOT HIM.

ATRI CRIED OUT THE NAMES OF HIS FAVOURITE DEITIES —



THE BOYS RAN AS FAST AS THEIR LEGS COULD CARRY THEM.

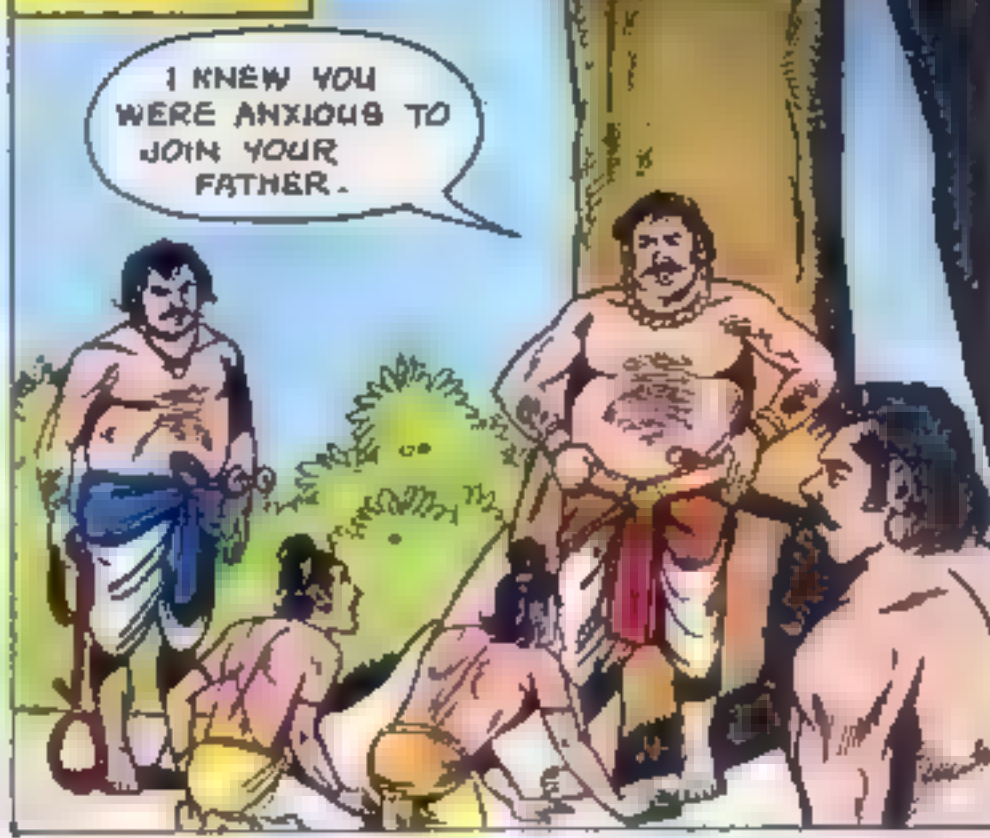




SUDDENLY THEY TRIPPED...



... AND FELL.



ATRI AND HIS SONS WERE DRAGGED TO A TREE WITH A HOLLOW TRUNK



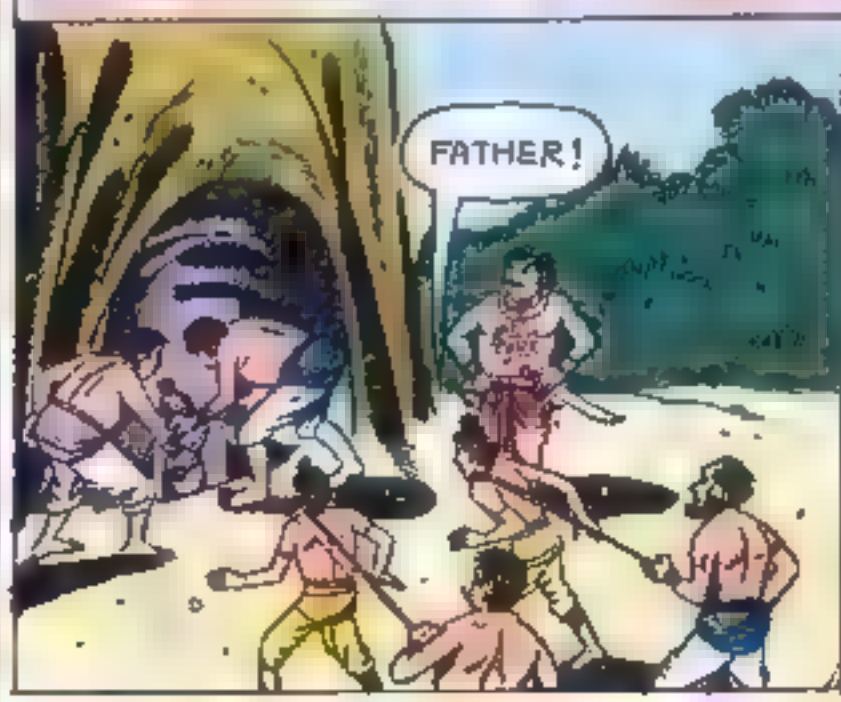
YOU WILL NOW GO ON A LONG JOURNEY.



SHOW HIM THE WAY.



ATRI WAS THROWN INTO THE HOLLOW.







THE NEXT MOMENT HE HEARD SOME NOISES. HE LOOKED UP.

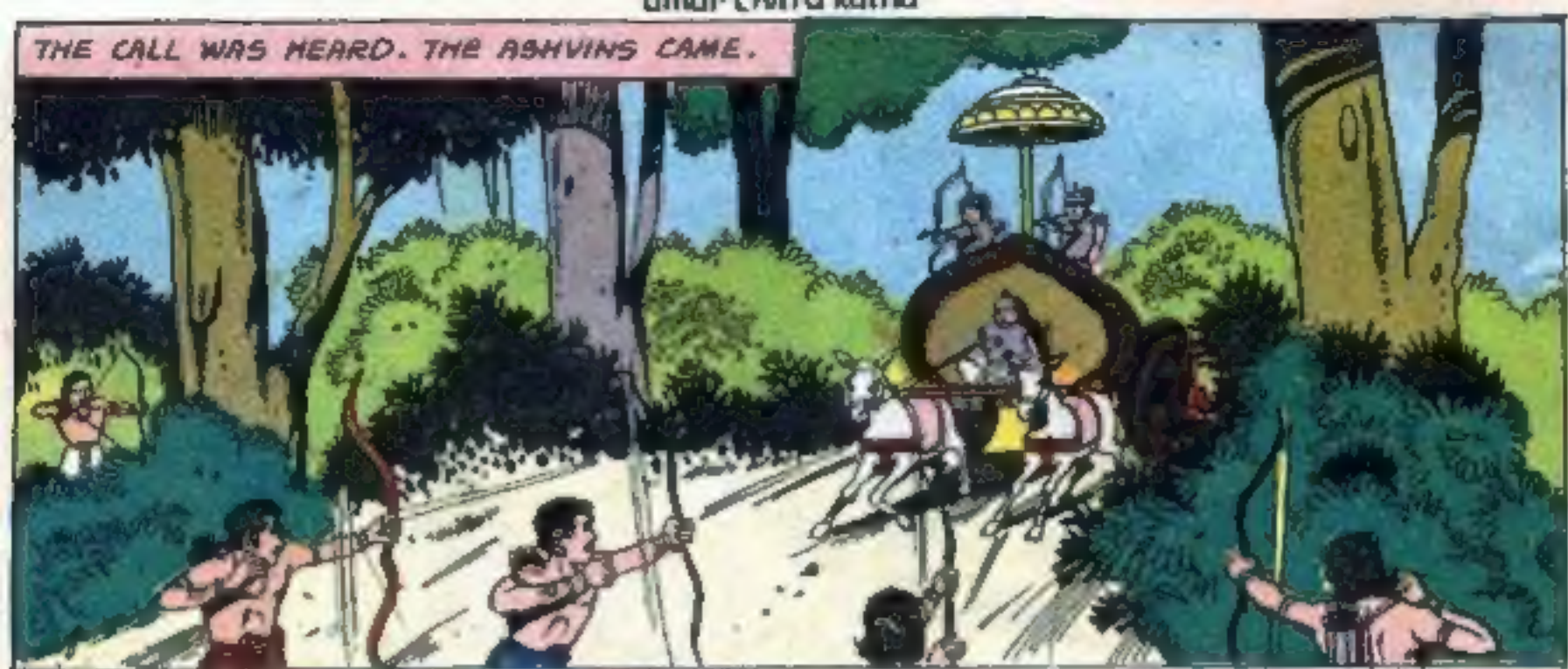








THE CALL WAS HEARD. THE AGHVINs CAME.



THOSE DASHYUS WHO DARED TO PUT UP A FIGHT FELL.



THE WISER ONES FLED AS THE AGHVINs ADVANCED IN THEIR CHARIOT, DRAWN BY TWO ASSES.



SOON —

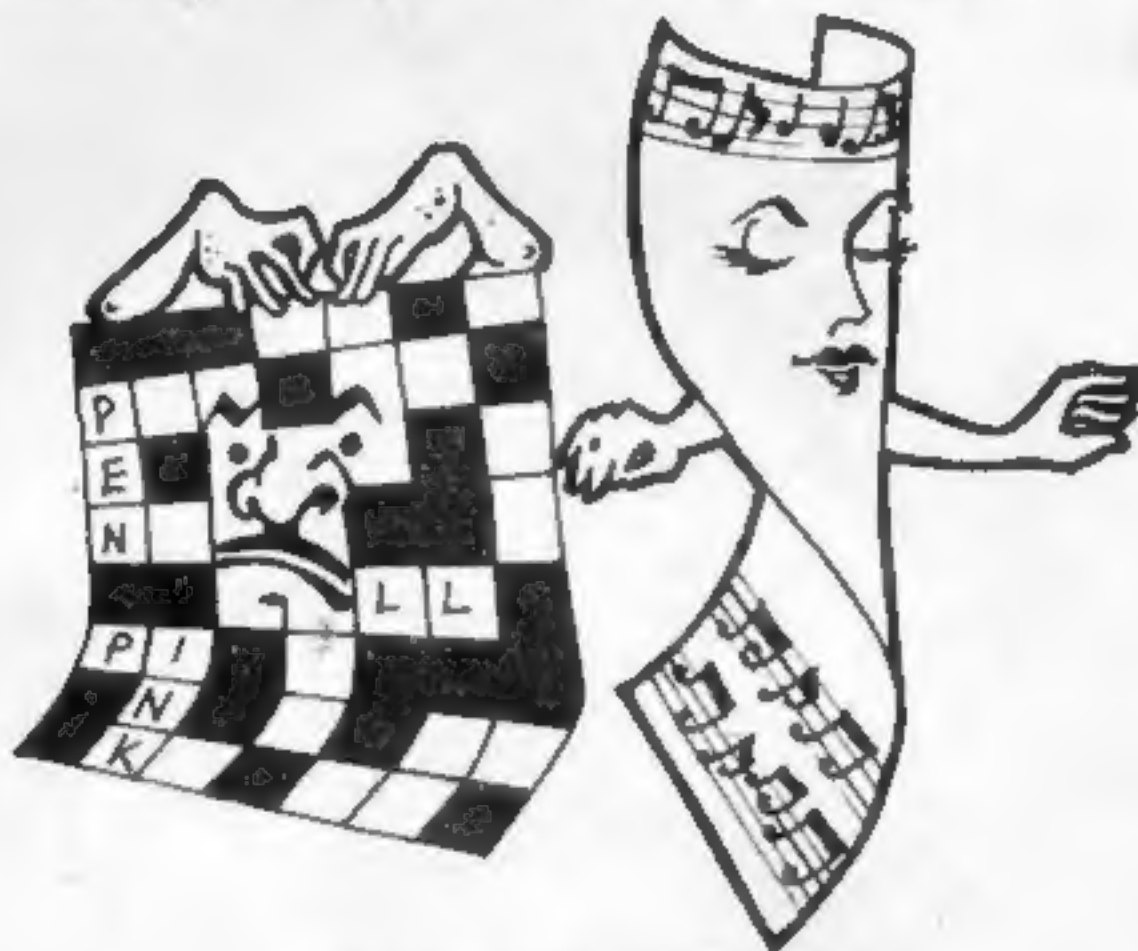


ATRI'S FAITH AND COURAGE HAD PAID OFF. HE LOST NEITHER HIS FREEDOM NOR HIS LIFE.





**What do crossword puzzles  
and songs have in common?**



**Chelpark**



Chelpark inks,  
ball point pens  
and refills.

**The name millions  
have at their fingertips.**